

Hafa Adai!

# Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXIV, Issue No. 43

MONDAY MARCH 3, 2014

www.saipantribune.com

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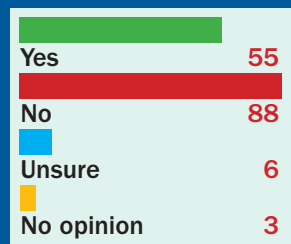
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## POLL RESULTS

Should large businesses be required to hook up to the CUC grid?



Sunday, February 3, 2013

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### NATION



President Obama's threat against Russia may not matter to Russian President Putin. **► PAGE 18**

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More than 10 assailants slash people with knives at a train station in China. **► PAGE 19**

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Will and Jaden Smith are awarded Razzies for worst actors. **► PAGE 21**

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## No assurance on CW extension

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

U.S. Labor Secretary Thomas Perez, along with his staff, has not given either Gov. Eloy S. Inos or Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) any assurances that the requested CW program extension will be decided "soon" nor what that decision would be, during recent meetings in Washington, D.C.

Only about nine months are left before the Dec. 31, 2014, end of the transitional federal program that gives the CNMI continued access to some 10,000 foreign

workers for its economy.

While Perez has until July or 180 days

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**» Perez gives no assurance to either Inos, Kilili in DC**

## 'No solid lead in As Gonno homicide'

**» Investigators look into possible link to recent arrest of 7 persons for 'ice'**

By FERGIE DE LA TORRE  
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REPORTER

Investigators have so far no solid lead in the As Gonno arson that led to the death of a Chinese couple, but they are looking into a possible link in the recent arrest of seven persons for alleged distribution of methamphetamine or "ice."

In a news briefing on Friday, Department of Public Safety Commissioner James Deleon Guerrero disclosed that they had interviewed some persons pertaining to the As Gonno double homicide, but that there's no solid lead yet that will help them solve the case.

Deleon Guerrero also stated that when the As Gonno incident hap-

**See HOMICIDE on Page 4**



## CNMI woman turns 100 years old today

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

At 100 years old today, Ana Lian Igitol has got to be the oldest person—or at least among the oldest—in the CNMI right now, her family said at her birthday party yesterday in Koblerville that also became a community celebration of family, love, and culture.

"We are very blessed with the outpouring of love. God willing, we will be celebrating her 101st birthday and so on. I think it is love and hard work that she's still here to celebrate her 100th birthday with us. Right now, we believe she's the

oldest person in the CNMI," her oldest son Pedro "Pete" Juarez Lian Igitol, 77, told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Born on March 3, 1914, Ana L. Igitol has 14 children but only six remain today. She has 17 grandchildren, 34 great grandchildren, and three great-great grandchildren.

**» Five generations of Igitol celebrate matriarch's birthday**

She is fondly called "Na, Nan Nena or Na Lanchu," and is currently living with her youngest

daughter Rosa L. Igitol and her family in Koblerville, where the birthday celebration was held yesterday. The family takes turns caring for the Igitol matriarch.

Families and friends from the CNMI, Guam, and other Micronesian islands

Some of the children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren of Ana Lian Igitol pose for a family photo in Koblerville yesterday, to celebrate in advance Igitol's 100th birthday today. Na or Nan Nena, as she is fondly called, was born on March 3, 1914, and is believed to be the oldest—or among the oldest—living person in the CNMI where it is rare for individuals to live a century, her family says. Inset shows a file photo of the birthday celebrant, Ana Lian Igitol.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



and U.S. mainland came to celebrate the centenarian birthday, with stories about family life and friendship, food, cultural dances and even card tricks for adults and children.

Pete Igitol said his mother lived an active lifestyle and it could be the key to

living at least a century.

"I think for one to reach 100, you have to live a good life, look at what you eat, slow down on alcohol and lots of love for your family and other people. It could also be in the genes. Many of our

**See WOMAN on Page 4**



# Local

## Saipan casino bill up for House vote today

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

House floor leader Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan) will formally introduce in this afternoon's session his bill legalizing casino gaming on Saipan, adding that he will "respectfully ask members to have it placed on calendar for action today" given the need to keep the ball rolling in finding ways to generate new revenues to restore retirees' 25 percent pension cut, pay interest on retirement contributions, payment into the retirement settlement trust fund, and continuously fund public services.

"Time is of the essence. We can't allow the 25 percent pension cut to continue. This is a major revenue-generating bill that will help restore that," Demapan said.

A leadership meeting will be held this morning, in time for the 1:30pm House session.

Demapan, along with Rep. Felicidad Ogumoro (R-Saipan), prefiled House Bill 18-179 on Feb. 20, on the heels of legal challenges faced by the Senate in trying to reconsider a Saipan casino bill that it shelved three months ago.

That shelved Saipan casino bill in the Senate passed the House in

June last year by a vote of 13-7.

Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan) said last night that should the bill come to a vote today, "my vote will be 'no.'"

Villagomez was among the seven who voted "no" to a similar bill last year, along with now acting speaker Frank Dela Cruz (Ind-Saipan), Reps. Roman Benavente (Ind-Saipan), Trenton Conner (Ind-Tinian), Janet Maratita (Ind-Saipan), Ray Tebuteb (Ind-Saipan), and Ralph Yumul (Ind-Saipan). There's no telling whether the others would maintain their "no" vote this time around.

The latest Saipan casino bill is

the fourth legislation of its kind to be introduced in four years, each of them rejected by the Senate in one form or another. But Demapan said "things have changed over the past months," including the approved retirement settlement agreement and pension cut.

Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan), who used to be lukewarm on a Saipan casino bill, echoed Demapan's statement on the government's growing obligations the past months that require new revenue sources.

Unlike previous Saipan casino bills, the current one only allows one casino license holder on Saipan because the CNMI was already able to enact other revenue-generating laws legalizing video lottery and electronic gaming, although they have yet to yield revenue as of today.

The proposed Saipan casino license requires \$30 million payment upfront, and \$15 million every year thereafter until the duration of the license. Each license is for 25 years, with the option to extend for another 15 years or a total of 40 years.

This means the license alone could cost some \$600 million in a 40-year period, and this still excludes the business gross revenue, other taxes and fees, plus the multiplier effect in the economy. The casino application fee alone is \$1 million.

Legalizing casino operations on Saipan has been a divisive issue in the CNMI for several years now. Casino initiatives were rejected twice before by Saipan voters. Casino gambling is legal only on Rota and Tinian; the latter being home to Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino.

## Tropical storm may pass east of Saipan Tuesday morning

Tropical Storm Faxai, which was moving northwest with maximum sustained winds of 60 miles per hour yesterday afternoon, is expected to pass east of Saipan on Tuesday morning.

According to the National Weather Service in Guam, as of 1pm yesterday, the center of Tropical Storm Faxai was 95

miles north-northwest of Ulul, 250 miles northwest of Chuuk, 390 miles southeast of Guam, 395 miles southeast of Rota, 430 miles southeast of Tinian, and 430 miles south-southeast of Saipan.

Moving northwest at 6mph, Faxai will gradually turn toward the north and accelerate in for-

ward speed through Tuesday, NWS said.

Faxai is forecast to pass east of Guam tonight (Monday) and Saipan on Tuesday morning.

Faxai is expected to intensify slowly during the next 36 hours with its force winds extend outward from the center up to 70 miles. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

## Proposed constitutional change to clarify legislative vacancies

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

A new proposal to amend the NMI Constitution seeks to clarify the process in which a vacancy in the Senate or House of Representatives is filled, to avoid a lengthy process that reached the Supreme Court in determining the replacements for at least two vacant Senate seats.

Rep. Christopher Leon Guerrero (Cov-Saipan) will introduce today House Legislative Initiative 18-14, which he pre-

filed on Friday, amending Article 2 Section 9 of the NMI Constitution to clarify that a vacant legislative seat shall be filled by the person who was the unsuccessful candidate for the same office in the same election who received the largest number of votes and is willing to serve; effectively, the runner-up to the vacating senator, "regardless of the timing of that election."

Leon Guerrero said it is time that the question is placed before CNMI voters, by passing the initiative.

"Who replaces a senator who

was elected in 2009 if there was a subsequent election conducted in 2012, just prior to the vacancy arising? Does the governor appoint the so-called 'runner up' in the 2009 election who actually ran against and received fewer votes in the exact same election to the vacating senator? Or does the governor appoint the 'unsuccessful candidate for the office in the last election who received the largest number of votes and is willing to serve' from the 2012 election which was the election that last occurred following the creation of the vacancy?" Leon Guerrero asked, in prefiling HLI 18-14.

The last time the CNMI had to deal with a Senate vacancy was when former senator Juan M. Ayuyu resigned from office while waiting for court sentencing related to smuggling of endangered fruit bats.

A Supreme Court opinion in November paved the way for former Senate president Paul Manglona's appointment, being the second highest vote getter in the 2012 Rota senatorial race, even as others still believe that someone from the 2009 race where Ayuyu ran should have been appointed instead.

Leon Guerrero said that by treating both the House and Senate in exactly the same manner, Article 2 Section 9 of the NMI Constitution fails to address one of the critical differences between the two legislative houses, including the staggered term of four years in the Senate.

As a result of the staggered Senate elections, a Senate "vacancy" that occurs after a subsequent election means that the term "last" election may be reasonably interpreted in two different and seriously conflicting ways.



### COMMUNITY SERVICE

The Manta Ray Battalion had a great start this year with their community service that was held in Koblerville on Feb. 22 2014. The cadets started off at Saipan Southern High School and split into two groups: one in Tototville and one going down to PIC.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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# 'Splitting divert airfield between Saipan, Tinian among options'

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**  
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REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said the U.S. military has not decided yet on which CNMI island a U.S. Air Force divert airfield would be built, adding that "all the alternatives, including doing nothing and, perhaps, splitting the project between Tinian and Saipan, are still under consideration."

This, after Sablan received on Jan. 23 a letter from U.S. Air Force Major General Thomas Bergeson.

CNMI officials are unified in their request to put the divert airfield on Tinian, where two-thirds of the island is already leased to the U.S. Department of Defense. DoD, however, wants it on Saipan.

The divert airfield is intended to be an alternative landing base for Air Force planes if Andersen Air Force Base in Guam becomes unavailable because of weather or war.

Sablan had written to the Secretary of the Air Force, "making the argument for putting all the divert airfield activities on Tinian, which our Covenant agreed to lease to the U.S. for military purposes of this kind."

"Of course, there are people putting pressure on the Defense Department to locate some of the divert activities on Saipan—Guam Congresswoman Bordallo is making that argument—despite our Covenant," he said.

In December, President Barack Obama signed into law the National Defense Au-

thorization Act for fiscal year 2014 that provides \$29.3 million for the development of a U.S. Air Force divert airfield in the CNMI.

The new law prohibits the Air Force from spending any of the \$29.3 million until it reports to Congress on all the alternatives that have been considered, the overall construction requirements, and the cost/benefits of options for the land needed.



Sablan

So far, there is no such report, Sablan said. The delegate supported for inclusion in the NDAA the \$29.3 million and the required report to Congress on all alternatives the Air Force considered.

Press secretary Angel Demapan, meanwhile, said Gov. Eloy S. Inos did not have any military-related meetings in Washington, D.C. "because there is no new update since Governor Inos was last briefed in Honolulu a month ago."

At the invitation of the U.S. Pacific Command, Inos went to Honolulu weeks ago to receive mission briefs from key military officials from various components regarding the nation's strategic rebalancing efforts in the Pacific region.

In those briefings, Air Force officials maintained that their preferred proposed site of Saipan is intended to serve as a divert location only and not as a training ground that will be active throughout the year. They said divert activities are not expected to exceed more than four weeks a year. But Inos had said the Air Force should

make use of the property on Tinian already leased for military purposes and expressed disappointment with the lack of a cost-benefit analysis between Saipan and Tinian.

The governor earlier told the Air Force that its request to lease 33 acres of land on Saipan for the next 50 years for a proposed divert airfield "is quite an undesirable conclusion as it would impede future commercial development in the area."

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## Closing arguments done in retrial of ex-DOC officer

The prosecution and the defense completed Friday their closing arguments in the ongoing retrial in federal court of former Department of Corrections officer Mariano Q. Falig Jr. who is accused of distributing methamphetamine or "ice."

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona adjourned the trial and directed the 14 jurors to return today, Monday, at 2pm for jury instructions and deliberations.

Assistant U.S. attorney Ross Naughton is prosecuting the case. Bruce Berline is Falig's counsel.

An indictment charged Falig and his second cousin, Vicente Aldan Sablan, also known as Ben Seven, with conspiracy to distribute "ice" and distribution of "ice." In addition, Falig was charged with using, carrying, or possession of a firearm during and in relation to a crime of violence or drug trafficking crime. The U.S. government later dismissed this count.

Sablan signed a plea deal with the U.S. government. He testified on Thursday for the U.S. government.

According to DEA Task Force officer Diwain A. Stephen in his report, their confidential source gave Sablan \$800 in ATF funds (Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives) for a controlled purchase of "ice" from Falig.

After Vicente Sablan's testimony, the prosecution then called to the witness stand his cousin, Robin Norita Sablan, who allegedly brought them to the location of "ice" supplier in Lower Navy Hill. The last government's witness for the day was chemist Todd H. Davis.

In March 2013, Manglona declared a mistrial in the case after Falig's then counsel, Ramon K. Quichocho, disclosed shortly after jury selection that he represents the prosecution's key witness in a family court proceeding.

The retrial of Falig began last Monday. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

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# Man, 23, allegedly beat up Mafnas' daughter

A 23-year-old man allegedly beat up the daughter of Department of Corrections Commissioner Ramon Mafnas at the latter's residence in San Roque last Tuesday.

James Anthony P. Webb surrendered to police later that same day and was brought to DOC.

Webb was arrested for assault and battery, criminal mischief, and disturbing the peace. At a hearing on Thursday, Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth

L. Govendo increased Webb's bail from \$2,000 to \$5,000 cash.

Responding police officers saw that Mafnas' daughter, a minor, had bruises on her left shoulder, left arm, under the neck, and scratch marks on her arms. She also complained of pain in the head. Medics came and treated her.

Police detective Patrick P. Sablan stated in his report that two police officers were dispatched to Mafnas' residence due to a disturbance.

Sablan said the girl stated that Webb became upset during their conversation and that he started

calling her bad names. He then allegedly kicked her on the abdomen and punched her back

and head. He also allegedly choked her.

The girl managed to escape

and ran inside a room adjacent to the kitchen where she locked herself inside.

The report did not mention Webb's relationship with the girl. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**

## HOMICIDE

From Page 1

opened, they looked into a possible link with the recent arrest of five Chinese nationals and two locals for "ice" distribution charges.

"But we are not prepared at this point of time to share what we're doing specifically about it and what are the results of that," he added.

Police have classified the death of Guo Huang Xu and his wife, Qing Xiu Zheng, as a double homicide. The two reportedly died due to smoke inhalation as a result of the fire that razed their house to the ground in a farm in As Gonno Sunday night.

Deleon Guerrero said that the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and Drug Enforcement Administration Task Force are helping the department.

He said ATF and DEA Task Force's involvement is focused on the analysis of some of the forensic evidence as well as collection and preservation of evidence that were taken from the crime scene.

Deleon Guerrero said the DEA's involvement was particularly because they also looked into a possible link with the recent arrest of seven alleged drug dealers.

The commissioner said they need the public's help to cooperate with law enforcement and with the Commonwealth Bureau of Investigation on whatever information they have pertaining to the double homicide.

"In particular we request the assistance, most specifically from the Chinese community who are out there. If they have any type of information whatsoever pertaining to that particular incident, whether it is something they're hearing as a rumor or whatever tips they may have, to please contact the Commonwealth Bureau of Investigation and offer such information," he said.

He said the cooperation of the Chinese community is absolutely critical in resolving cases that involve someone within their community.

Deleon Guerrero said for those who want to remain anonymous may call the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272.

He said they have been work-

ing with the Chinese Consulate Office in Los Angeles in making sure that the victims' family is notified about the incident.

Deleon Guerrero said the relatives of the victims are on Saipan and have been assisting the investigators.

Deleon Guerrero declined to cite specific details but said they discovered some things at the crime scene that prompted them to classify the case as a homicide. He said that mentioning details would compromise the investigation because of the many things that only the assailants would know.

CBI chief Fire Lt. Kevin Aldan said they could not disclose which part of the house the couple's bodies were found.

Right now, Aldan said, they are very careful with giving out information because the investigation is ongoing.

As to the many unsolved homicide cases involving Chinese nationals, Deleon Guerrero admitted that when it comes to citizens of the People's of Republic of China, crime solving is quite difficult.

"The fact of the matter is, throughout the years we've been investigating cases such as this, they're not as forthcoming in terms of providing information to law enforcement. I can only speculate on the reasons why that is," he said.

The commissioner said they need the Chinese community's cooperation because there are a lot of Chinese victims.

"I'm hoping that members of the Chinese community begin to trust the department to be able to take action against anyone responsible for crimes such as this," he said. "The reality of the situation is this: As long as the community stays silent about incidents like this, then you cannot really truly expect much from the police to be able to come to a resolution."

Another issue is the language barrier, Deleon Guerrero said, adding that the department needs to be more diverse in their personnel.

"We need people from other ethnic background so we can understand the culture," he said.

He disclosed, though, that the DPS Special Homicide Activity Resolution Partnership, a team tasked to work on unsolved homicide cases, is still active with three investigators.

## WOMAN

From Page 1

relatives passed on in their 90s," Pete Igitol, a board member of Hafa Adai Beach Hotel, said.

U.S. Army SPC Ivan Igitol, one of the grandchildren, said even when he was in Afghanistan, he was hoping that he'd see his grandmother turn 100. And he did.

"I'm very happy. She's a strong woman," he said. Ivan and her daughter SPC Britney Igitol were among the 16 CNMI soldiers who returned from their Afghanistan deployment in January. Some of the soldiers they served with in Afghanistan flew in from Guam to join their family's celebration of the Igitol matriarch's 100th birthday yesterday.

Ivan Igitol also believes that his grandmother's lifestyle and values helped her reach 100

years old.

"She had been farming and fishing with my grandfather. She had an active lifestyle. Before there were corned beef and Spam, they lived with what they can fish and grow in the farm like banana, corn, sweet potato, coconut. No processed food," Ivan Igitol said.

Ivan Igitol's wife, Marie Salas-Igitol, said Ana Lian Igitol "is an inspiration to all of us and to many." Marie is the CNMI Family Readiness Support Group coordinator for the Guam Army National Guard.

Ivan and Marie Igitol said just a few nights ago, they asked their grandmother to sing a song.

"And she hummed a song. There were no words, but there's humming. She can still make out the tune. Her hearing is still okay," Ivan Igitol said.

Na or Nan Nena lived through World War II and other periods

in CNMI history. She married her husband Pablo on Oct. 12, 1935, in Nuestra Senora Bithen Delos Remedios in Tanapag. When they got married, she was 5 feet and 1 inch tall, while he was a 6-footer.

"She was a feisty—lively, spirited, energetic, aggressive and go-getter woman whom Ta deeply cherished and loved. Besides being a great wife, mother and cook, Na's trade occupation was a baker. She was truly an avid baker known for her homemade bread, browas (chiffon cakes), rosku, cookies and cakes which the [children] benefited [from], if they happened to be at the farm helping with the baking," her family said in a tribute to her.

The family said their Na and Ta were known and seen everywhere as the "loving couple who drove and went to social and church celebrations togeth-

er, but most especially to baseball games and campaigns."

Ana Lian Igitol's husband Pablo passed away on March 31, 1998, at the age of 85. She was 82 at the time.

Rosa Igitol, their youngest child, paid tribute to their mother by saying, "Na is love, Na is warmth, Na is respect, Na is faithful and Na is God-sent. I love her with all my heart and soul."

Of Na and Ta's 14 children, the only six remaining are Pedro "Pete," David, Delfina, Martin, Leonisa, and Rosa.

In the CNMI, the last known oldest person got to live 97 years and passed away in March 2011. This makes Ana Lian Igitol the oldest living person in the CNMI, as far as her family and friends know.

"It's rare to celebrate somebody's 100th birthday so the family is thankful and feel blessed," Pete Igitol added.

## CW

From Page 1

before the Dec. 31 end of the CW program to decide under the law, the absence of a decision at least four years since the CNMI started asking for a five-year extension is a constant source of uncertainty for the local economy, its businesses, would-be investors, workers, and the government.

Inos has just returned from a two-week trip to Washington, D.C. for a series of meetings, and got to meet with fellow U.S. governors, federal officials including Perez and U.S. Labor staff on separate occasions, among other things.

"Secretary Perez did not say what the decision will be, but he appeared to wholly understand the plight of the CNMI when Governor Inos pointed out to him the critical needs of our economy, and the lack of a viable citizen workforce to replace CW workers at the end of this year," press secretary Angel Demapan said in an email response to questions yesterday.

Demapan, who accompanied the governor to the nation's capital, said the governor was fortunate to be seated right beside the U.S. Labor secretary during a dinner hosted recently by President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama at the White House.

The press secretary said during the White House dinner, Perez informed the governor that he is fully aware of the situation in the CNMI and that his team is working expeditiously to come up with a decision on this matter.

The governor also had the opportunity to meet with other key U.S. Labor officials at the DOL

offices in Washington, D.C.

"In Governor Inos' meeting with U.S. Labor officials the following day, Monday, February 24th, the governor again reiterated the need for US DOL to render a decision so that business and CW workers have ample time to plan their next move[s], whatever the decision may be. Governor Inos pointed out that there are several training programs in place to develop a local workforce, but the CNMI is not yet at a point where there is enough local labor capacity," he said.

Demapan said the governor added that the CNMI "really needs this extension of transition period because current tourism trends have resulted in new businesses opening up doors and new investments coming to the islands."

The governor cited, for example, the two requests for proposal for development of new hotels in San Antonio and Marpi.

With an expected combination of more than 1,000 new rooms and hundreds of millions of dollars in new investments, the CNMI would need more than ever the capacity provided by CW workers, he said.

"The extension being sought for is temporary relief to allow the Commonwealth to further build a resident workforce that is not only adequate, but qualified and skilled, too. Short of giving a concrete response, US DOL officials did inform Governor Inos that they have spent the past several months reviewing the situation and that they are now in the final stages of their analysis that will be presented to Secretary Perez for his final decision," Demapan added.

He said those who attended

the U.S. Labor meeting were Seema Nanda, deputy chief of staff, Office of the Secretary; Megan Uzzell, deputy assistant secretary; James Moore, deputy assistant secretary for operations; and Tony Zaffirini, senior legislative officer, Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs.

Also at the meeting were Carrianna Suiter, deputy director of Intergovernmental Affairs; Patricia Davidson, WHD deputy administrator for Program Operations; Gerri Fiala, deputy assistant secretary, Employment and Training Administration; Sean Cartwright, chief of staff, at ETA; and Alyssa McGovern, director of policy also at ETA.

Sablan separately said his office did arrange for the governor to meet with U.S. Labor officials while he was in Washington, D.C. "to press the case for the extension and for a decision as soon as possible."

"But there is still no decision," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* over the weekend. "The department has not said that they are going to wait until the last moment to decide, however."

The delegate said it is important to remember that this is a complex decision, "which is why it takes time."

"There are people in the Northern Mariana Islands arguing against having any foreign workers beyond 2014. The department knows it will be criticized if it decides to extend; and it will have to defend its decision well. This means being able to show that extending the transition period will not make it harder for U.S. workers in the Northern Marianas to get jobs. Nationally, the Obama administration is focused on creating jobs. So the department has to be sure

that its policy in the Northern Marianas does not result in fewer jobs," Sablan said.

There are also those who oppose the CW extension hoping to press the Obama administration and Congress to grant improved status such as U.S. permanent residency to legal, long-term foreign workers in the CNMI before the CW program expires by end of 2014.

Sablan reiterated his view that "losing 10,000 foreign workers this year will force businesses to close and investors to pull out."

"We just don't have 10,000 U.S. workers to take over. And when businesses close and investors decide not to build new hotels, then our local workers will lose their existing jobs and their future job opportunities. That puts our Northern Marianas economy into a kind of downward spiral," Sablan said.

Businesses and workers interviewed said almost every aspect of the CNMI way of life would forever change without the skilled and professional foreign workers—mostly from Asian countries—from hotel services to the economy in general, along with nursing and caregiving for the sick and elderly, engineering and architectural needs, the taste of food in restaurants or the absence of barber shops and beauty shops.

Many employers are holding off on investing more as there is still a question mark whether they would still have workers for their businesses nine months or a year or two later.

"It will be a disaster," Herman's Modern Bakery general manager Juan "Pan" T. Guerrero said. This statement is echoed not only by businessmen but also by government officials, employees and would-be investors.



# Muña endorses hiring of hospital CFO

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

After almost a two-year search for a chief financial officer for the public hospital, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. may soon appoint one to the hard-to-fill post following the endorsement of the hiring of a candidate from Hawaii.

Interim CEO Esther Muña disclosed that she found a "perfect candidate" to fill the position and that person is expected to be on island very soon for an initial visit and interview.

Muña did not disclose the name of the candidate but she is convinced that the individual is capable of turning around the corporation's financial situation because of the person's strong background in managing the fi-

nances of many healthcare systems in Hawaii.

She described the candidate as a retiree and might agree to come to the CHCC on a special contract.

Muña admitted that she endorsed the candidate's hiring despite not meeting the requirement that requires at least a master's degree in business administration and five years experience in healthcare finances.

"He doesn't meet the requirements of the law because he doesn't have the master's degree, but he worked in the healthcare systems and he went through healthcare systems with the same situation like ours. So for me, he's a perfect candidate because he's somebody who has the credentials that can really help us," Muna told the board Thursday.

Based on the job announcement made available to both local and off-island applicants, the corporation proposes a two-year contract, with a salary offer ranging from \$100,000 to \$150,000 per annum. The corporation received 32 applications for the post.

As to who will shoulder the salary of the CFO, that has yet to be determined pending a meeting with Gov. Eloy S. Inos, who earlier pledged to pay for the salaries of both CEO and CFO positions for the hospital.

Muña disclosed that based on her initial inquiry about the CFO salary issue, she was made aware that there's only \$70,000 available for the position.

"Maybe that \$70,000 [sal-

ary] is enough for the candidate [from Hawaii] if he's not here 365 days in a year. But I would like to hire him even if he doesn't meet the requirements [of the law]," said Muña.

Board trustee Philip Mendiola-Long indicated that he first wants to make sure if CHCC has the capability to pay the CFO in case the Executive Branch decides not to fund the position.

"We're talking about \$150K or \$120K or \$70K. With our cash flow right now, can we afford that salary every month?" asked Mendiola-Long, who participated via teleconference.

"To be honest with you, I think we can afford it," assured Muña, referring to the \$70,000 target salary. After hearing this,

Mendiola-Long urged his fellow trustees to work with the Legislature right away to propose changes to Public Law 16-51, which created the corporation and set the hiring require-

ments for its officials.

For vice chairman Pete Dela Cruz, the hiring of the CFO is the "call of the CEO" and he affirmed his support as well.

He asked board chair Joaquin Torres to clear once and for all the issue on the CFO salary and meet with Inos once he returns from off-island business.

## 'Make drug tests for law enforcers mandatory'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Department of Public Safety Commissioner James Deleon Guerrero strongly recommended to the Legislature to pass a bill that will make drug testing for law enforcers mandatory.

In a news briefing on Friday, Deleon Guerrero said that making drug testing mandatory will ensure that there will be funding for this program.

"If it's not mandated then how do we ensure compliance?" the commissioner asked.

In past years, it's always been random drug testing, it was not required, and nobody was doing the testing.

"That's why we keep telling [lawmakers], 'Make it mandatory,'" Deleon Guerrero said.

Deleon Guerrero's call for mandatory drug testing was in response to Sen. Paul A. Manglona's letter to him dated Feb. 27, 2014. He said he got a copy of the letter from *Saipan Tribune*.

In the letter, Manglona urged the commissioner to fully implement mandatory drug testing on all DPS personnel as soon as possible.

At a minimum, Manglona said, a random drug test must be conducted every three months.

The senator said Deleon Guerrero has the authority to compel an officer to take a drug test if he has reasonable suspicion that the officer is under the influence of drugs based on articulated facts such as behavior, time and attendance, performance of duties, etc.

Manglona said that "ice" has been wreaking havoc on the lives of the people in the CNMI and its effects are not limited to ordinary residents but also law enforcement officers.

"Though we do not want to rely on hearsay, we hear in the community that more officers are meddling with illegal

drugs," the senator said. "We must not remain complacent any longer. It is high time to do something."

Manglona commended the Commonwealth Ports Authority's board for recently requiring a mandatory drug test on all their personnel. He also praised the Board of Education after the Public School System recently conducted a random drug testing among their employees as part of their annual policy.

Deleon Guerrero said he agrees in large part with the senator's letter. He said DPS has to take a much more active role in ensuring public trust in the department.

"First and foremost, we have not been complacent," he stressed.

Deleon Guerrero said internally within DPS, there are a number of steps that are occurring. He said when somebody gets fired, it is not their policy to call the media to say that they just released a personnel from the department.

Deleon Guerrero said the reality of the situation is, if there is any allegation of any drug use on the part of department employees, an immediate investigation is performed by internal affairs investigators.

"We have been performing a lot of in-house cleaning in this department. We have gotten rid of probably more employees in this department from drug and other violations than any other government agencies in the entire CNMI government," he said.

He disclosed that over the next several weeks, they will be releasing several more employees, some of them implicated in drug investigations.

Deleon Guerrero said he agrees with Manglona that they have to be vigilant.

But really, he pointed out, drug testing is not the function of DPS but of the Office of Personnel Management.



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# 'Not a closed case for orthopedic doctor'

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Dr. Grant Walker may still practice on the islands if he will fully satisfy the requirements of the credentialing committee that reviews and recommends to the hospital's governing body whether he is qualified to be granted medical privileges at the Commonwealth Health Center.

This was the revelation of Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. board chair Joaquin Torres on the issues surrounding the orthopedic doctor who wants to return to the CNMI.

"It's not a closed case for Dr. Walker. The process is ongoing and has not been completed yet," Torres disclosed to *Saipan Tribune*, adding that the bylaws clearly mandates the require-

ments set for credentialing.

Walker has a "privilege request" currently pending at the hospital. A credentialing committee is handling this matter. *Saipan Tribune* learned that one of the most important requirements is proof or evidence of the applicant's financial responsibility, which can be any insurance coverage or other proof of financial capability of the applicant.

Torres told *Saipan Tribune* that Walker needs to satisfy all requirements, which are also stipulated in the corporation's bylaws.

The board has yet to know if Walker has submitted all the requirements. Torres assured that once all documents are turned in, the committee will do a full review of his request.

"Let the process take its

course," said Torres.

Last Thursday, the board discussed in a closed session issues about credentialing of staff. Walker's issue was among those scheduled to be discussed in the executive session.

"The governing body has to follow all existing procedures and it's the credentialing committee who is tasked to recommend if such request would be granted or not. Our role as advisory board is just to make

sure that all these procedures in place are being fully observed," said Torres.

CHCC hired Walker to serve as the hospital's orthopedic surgeon for 30 days. But prior to his contract's expiration, his medical privileges at the hospital were terminated due to a host of issues, includ-

ing unprofessional misconduct and subordination.

Medical privilege allows a physician to use the treatment facilities of a public hospital for their surgeries and operation. Losing this privilege, a doctor—whether in public or private clinics—cannot operate or provide services to his clients.

## Rotary Club swears in new members

The Rotary Club of Saipan inducted three new members last Tuesday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

The new Rotarians are Wendell Posadas, Perry Inos Jr., and returning member Brian Clayton.

"It is my pleasure on behalf of the board of directors and the

members of the Rotary Club of Saipan to welcome you as members," club president Laila Boyer told the new members. "While we can make you a member of our Rotary Club, we cannot make you a Rotarian in the true sense of the word. That is a distinction which you must

gain for yourself."

She said that Posadas and Inos will be ambassadors for their respective vocations and any information that they have must "naturally come to us through you."

Returning member Brian Clayton was inducted as a new



JAYSON CAMACHO

Rotary Club of Saipan president Laila Boyer congratulates Wendell Posadas, left, and Perry Inos Jr., center, as the newest members of the club.

**COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**  
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM  
P.O. BOX 501370  
SAIPAN, MP 96950

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### PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Thirteenth CNMI State Board of Education hereby gives notice that there will be a Special Board Meeting on Tuesday, March 4, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. at the BOE Conference Room in Bwughos Street, Susupe, Saipan.

**AGENDA**

- I. Preliminary**
  1. Call to Order
  2. Roll Call
  3. Adoption of Agenda
  4. Adoption of Minutes
    - a. August 8, 2013 Special Board Meeting
    - b. August 27, 2013 Special Board Meeting
    - c. September 27, 2013 Special Board Meeting
    - d. October 10, 2013 Special Board Meeting
    - e. November 12, 2013 Special Board Meeting
    - f. November 27, 2013 Special Board Meeting
    - g. January 17, 2014 Regular Board Meeting
- II. Public Comments<sup>1</sup>**
- III. Reports**
  1. Chair
  2. Board Committees
    - a. CIP
    - b. FPA
    - c. ISA
    - d. LIA
  3. Commissioner of Education
    - a. Financial Status Reports
      - i. Federal
      - ii. Local
    - b. Head Start Program Report
    - c. Other matters
- IV. Unfinished Business**
- V. New Business**
  1. Proclamation - School Counselors Month (Ratification)
  2. Proclamation - Anti-bullying (Ratification)
  3. BOE-PSS Comments to House Bill No. 18-177 (Ratification)
  4. English Language Learner Proposed Policy
  5. Next Generation State-wide Assessments
  6. Next Generation Science Standards
  7. Birth to Grade 3 Proposal (P3) Policies
  8. Travel Write-Off Final Report
  9. Proposed Budget for FY 2015
  10. MOE Fund earmarked for CUC
  11. On the Job Training (OJT) Grant Proposal
  12. Head Start Program
    - a. Self-Assessment Timeline and Work Plan
    - b. Community Assessment Timeline and Work Plan
  13. Emergency and Logistics Management Operations Manual (ELMO) Draft #1
  14. ABC OIA Initiative – Year 1
  15. ABC OIA Report - Guideline for PSS CIP Projects
  16. House Bill No. 18-178
  17. House Legislative Initiative No. 18-12
- VI. Executive Session<sup>2</sup>**
- VII. Administrative Matters**
  1. Certification & Licensure Matters
    - a. Recommendation for Issuance of Certification & Licensure
  2. Establishment - BOE-NMC BOR Ad Hoc Committee
  3. Establishment - Ad Hoc Committee on COE Evaluation
- VIII. Discussion of Agenda for next Board meeting**
- IX. Adjournment**

<sup>1</sup>Pursuant to BOE Policy 0415, public comments are limited to 30 minutes. We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.  
<sup>2</sup>Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

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### NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY OF COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT FUNDS FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2014

THIS ADVERTISEMENT IS PAID FOR BY NMHC WITH CPD FUNDS.

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is announcing the availability of an estimated \$1,109,520.00 in Community Planning and Development (CPD) funds available from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. NMHC anticipates receiving an estimated amount of \$753,815.00 in Community Development Block Grants (CDBG); \$309,400.00 in Home Investment Partnerships (HOME); and, \$46,306.00 in Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds for Program Year (PY) 2014.

The CDBG funds, authorized under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, may be used for a wide range of community development activities to revitalize neighborhoods, provide affordable housing, expand economic opportunities, and improve community facilities and services. However, use of these funds must meet at least one of the national objectives which include: 1) to benefit low and moderate-income families; 2) to eliminate slum or blight conditions; or 3) to meet other urgent community development needs.

The CDBG program requires a grant recipient to certify that it will minimize displacement of persons as a result of activities assisted with CDBG funds. The CNMI government does not plan on undertaking any activity which will cause displacement of person. In the event of any unforeseen displacement resulting from any CDBG funded activity, the CNMI government will comply with the requirements of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, its implementing regulation and applicable local law.

HOME funds may be used to create affordable housing through financing assistance, site acquisition or improvement, and rehabilitating existing residential dwellings as well as providing funds for new construction or purchase of a single family residential dwelling. Use of HOME funds must benefit low-income families.

ESG funds may be used to rehabilitate or convert to buildings into homeless shelters and for shelter operating expenses, supportive services and homeless prevention and rapid re-housing activities. Use of ESG funds must benefit the homeless.

**Applications for the use of CPD funds are available for pick up at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) located in Garapan, Saipan; San Jose Village, Tinian; and, Songsong Village, Rota, beginning December 30, 2013.**

Applications must be submitted to the NMHC Offices in Garapan, Saipan (Saipan Residents); San Jose, Tinian (Tinian Residents); and, Songsong Village, Rota (Rota Residents) by **Friday, March 21, 2014, no later than 4:30 p.m. Applications submitted after March 21, 2014, will not be accepted.**

**A briefing will be conducted for interested applicants and for those applicants who have picked up an application for the use of CPD funds. The briefing will address the program requirements and regulations concerning the usage of CPD funds.**

**The schedules for briefing are as follows: February 12, 2014, 5:00 p.m. & February 26, 2014, 5:00 p.m.**

**We are encouraging all non-profit, for profit, and government service providers who are providing services to people with disabilities, homeless individuals, and emergency shelter administrators and operators to attend this briefing.**

For residents living on the island of Saipan, the briefing will held at the NMHC Office in Garapan; Residents living on the island of Tinian, the briefing will be held at the NMHC Office in San Jose Village; and Residents living on the island of Rota, the briefing will be held at the NMHC Office in Songsong Village.

Accommodations for disabled individuals or other non-English speaking individuals who wish to attend the briefing are available upon request by giving at least 24 hours notice prior to the meeting so that such needs can be arranged and provided. Additional inquiries, concerning the CPD program, may be directed to Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director or Mr. Jacob Muna, Planning Assistant at 234-6866 or 234-7689.

/s/Jesse S. Palacios  
Corporate Director

member as well and a returnee for the Rotary Club. "Wow! I picked the wrong day to be late," he joked after his induction. "Thank you for having me back, I was away for almost a year or so. I missed everyone and it's a pleasure to be back and I'm looking forward to being a part of the functions, fundraisers, and events and I'll do everything to help."

Inos said: "The Department of Commerce, as well as my organization, really thank you guys for trusting us to be part of your organization and being part of your committee for humanitarian needs."

Posadas, in his turn, said: "It is a great honor to be a part of this organization and thank you for giving me this opportunity to share my talents, knowledge, and my time and also for giving me a welcome here."

Inos is director of the Department of Commerce's CNMI Small Business Development Center. He works with large and small businesses to push economic activity in the Commonwealth. SBDC starts jobs, starts businesses, expands businesses, and retains both businesses and jobs.

Posadas is a certified professional in high technology and electronic engineering.

Posadas was sponsored by Rotarian Richard Cody, Inos was sponsored by Rotarian and Associate Justice Perry Inos, and Clayton was sponsored by Rotarian Agnes McPhetres. (*Jayson Camacho*)

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLAND

<b>NICHOLAS JR. P. SALI</b>	) FCD-DI CIVIL
Petitioner,	) ACTION
vs.	) NO. 14-0095
	)
<b>LEONIDA REGACHO</b>	) <b>SUMMON FOR</b>
<b>SALI</b>	) <b>PUBLICATION</b>
Respondent	)
	)

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 505548 Saipan MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 27th of February, 2014

/s/ Clerk of Court





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Miller Sausage

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3 LBS.

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**\$18.99**

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**\$1.29**

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/LB.

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**\$1.69**

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Chicken Wings	<b>\$12.99</b>





## INVITATION FOR BIDS WATER TASK FORCE IFB 14-GOV-059



Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the CNMI Water Task Force, is soliciting sealed bids for the Agag Water System Well Field Isolation Part B in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

A bid guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of the Treasury (T-Listed).

The Contractor will be required to submit payment and performance bonds from a US Treasury listed company. The Contractor will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal laws including the Davis Bacon Act.

This project is funded by a grant from the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA), Department of the Interior. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the project approval from OIA.

The project consists, in general, but is not limited to:

- Install approximately 6,255 lineal feet of 4", and 8" PVC waterline with appurtenant valves, fittings, flow meter, flush hydrants, air relief valves, and pressure reducing valves.
- Remove and dispose existing pipes at the Agag Booster Station.
- Various connections works at five (5) locations.
- Connect existing service laterals and water meters.
- Pressure testing and chlorination of new waterlines.
- Restore asphalt paving.
- Construction activity to not interrupt existing water service to the area.

A non-refundable payment of \$500 to CNMI Treasury is required for each set of Plans, Specifications, and Proposal Forms, available on or after **February 17, 2014** at the Water Task Force Office, 1316 Anatahan Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan. A mandatory pre-bid conference for this project is scheduled at **10:00 a.m., on February 28, 2014**, at the WTF Conference Room, Saipan. A project site visit will be made as a part of the pre-bid meeting.

All inquiries shall be in writing and addressed to Pedro Sasamoto, Program Manager, Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 or faxed to (670) 664-2279. Inquiries must be received no later than 4:30 PM on **February 27, 2014**.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, contained in the CNMI Administrative Code, Title 70 Subchapter 70-30.3-301. Preference is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funds for this project.

Sealed bids must be marked "**IFB 14-GOV-059**". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 2:00 pm local time **March 19, 2014**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 2:00 pm local time **March 19, 2014**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **March 19, 2014**, and must be received no later than **March 28, 2014**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 3:00 pm local time, **March 28, 2014**. However, if no Notices of Intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 3:00 pm local time on **March 19, 2014**.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/Eloy S. Inos  
Governor and Contracting Officer

/s/Herman S. Sablan  
Director, Procurement and Supply

## NMC hires 3 new faculty, one librarian

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College has hired three additional faculty members and filled the position of academic librarian this semester.

NMC president Dr. Sharon Y. Hart, Ph.D., disclosed to the Board of Regents that the college recently welcomed new full-time faculty members Nadia Camacho, who joins the business department; Yuhe Choi for the nursing department; and LeAnn Bull for the School of Education.

*Saipan Tribune* learned that Camacho is a former member of the college's Human Resource Department while Choi was recruited from Ohio and Bull was recruited on island.

Besides these full-time instructors, NMC was also able to bring in a new academic librarian from Kazakhstan, Chad Francisco.

Hart also disclosed that NMC has corresponded with the presidents of the Western Washington University, Washington State University, and Portland State University, asking these institutions to consider accepting CNMI transfer students.

It was disclosed that all three universities are part of the Undergraduate Exchange Program with WICHE but require all out-of-state students to start at their institution to receive the WICHE tuition discount.

WICHE stands for Western Interstate Commission of Higher Education, of which the CNMI is a member, allowing discounted rates for its students entering college in fellow member institutions.

Hart also reported that a meeting recently took place between NMC and Public School System executives where parties further refined a memorandum of understanding between their two boards to improve upon and outline future working relationships between the college and public schools.

At that same meeting, Hart said that they reviewed the college's Five Year Strategic Plan, which outlines the college's goals in relation to PSS.

The college's strategic plan indicates five specific imperatives that include increased relevance to CNMI workforce and community needs; ensure continued accreditation; accelerate time to completion; improve student success and support; and strengthen operations and resource development.

A lengthy discussion between parties also took place regarding the number of NMC students undergoing remediation programs and where improvements are needed.

## Flashback

### A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

March 3, 2006

#### A litany of problems

U.S. Deputy Assistant Interior Secretary David B. Cohen and Washington Rep. Pete A. Tenorio provided a U.S. Senate committee Wednesday with an overview of the Commonwealth's fiscal and economic woes. Tenorio represented the CNMI in the oversight hearing held by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee on the economic and fiscal state of U.S. territories in the Pacific. Cohen testified on behalf of U.S. insular areas, including the Northern Marianas. In his oral statement before the U.S. Senate committee, Tenorio highlighted the decline of the CNMI's tourism and garment manufacturing industries. The two industries, combined, provide about 80 percent of all employment, 96 percent of all exports, and 85 percent of all economic activity in the CNMI.

#### Tinian mayor mulls 2-3 work hour cuts

After implementing a one-hour workhour reduction for two weeks now, Mayor Jose P. San Nicolas plans to further cut his employees' work time by up to three hours "if worse comes to worst." In an interview, San Nicolas said that he may further reduce the workhour by two or three hours a day, depending on the personnel's salary. Under his proposal, those who are earning \$18,000 to \$30,000 will be cut by two hours and those earning over \$30,000 to \$50,000 will be cut by three hours. Those getting a salary of \$18,000 below will be spared.

March 3, 2007

#### Legislative OK for gov's budget revisions pushed

A bill has been proposed in the House of Representatives to require legislative approval on any projected changes in the government's revenue projections. Rep. Stanley T. Torres, who authored House Bill 15-239, noted there is currently no legal language authorizing the Legislature to independently review, audit and approve the governor's special messages concerning changes in revenue estimates for quarterly allotment revisions. At present, the governor is only required to inform the Legislature of any projected revenue increase or decrease that amounts to at least \$200,000 or 3 percent of the budget.

#### Retirement Fund meets with OPA

The NMI Retirement Fund met Thursday with Public Auditor Mike Sablan to discuss among others the Fund's need for a comprehensive fiscal and management auditing. "We invited them to help us improve our operations system. We want a comprehensive fiscal and management audit but OPA can't commit yet because they're also busy with audit work for other agencies," said Fund administrator Mark A. Aguon. He said the audit request does not imply irregularities "but we just want to be audited." "It's part of our goal to improve our operations. In the past, they audited the Retirement Fund focusing on travels and personnel," he said.

March 3, 2008

#### Fast action to halt wage hikes

The Senate committee in charge of U.S. insular affairs has vowed to act quickly on a federal bill suspending further increases in the minimum wage in the Northern Marianas and American Samoa. Sen. Jeff Bingaman, chairman of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Affairs, said that his panel will review the testimonies submitted on the minimum wage and refine the bill halting future hikes. "We will work quickly. I realize that the time constraints are very real," Bingaman said before the wage hearing in Washington, D.C. on Thursday. The next scheduled minimum wage increase will go into effect on May 25, 2008.

#### Giant kite star attraction at 3rd kite festival

Three members of the Korea Kitefliers Association showed local kitefliers how they do it in South Korea during the 3rd Annual Marianas Wind Kite Festival and Cultural Food Fair, held at the American Memorial Park Center Ball Field Saturday. Korea Kitefliers Association president Kitai Rhee, director Hakwon Kim and member Seung Jin Rhee showed off techniques used in flying a giant kite with an amazing ballet kite demonstration that wowed the crowd of spectators. The organizers also handed out several prizes. Among them, Cid Mostales took home the prize for the smallest kite with his 2x2-inch plastic kite, while 6-year-old John Robert Tam won the Most Original and Most Beautiful Kite prizes with his kite made from newspapers.



## COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

### INVITATION TO BID ITB14-GOV-066

#### Repainting of Government Buildings in Capitol Hill

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Jude U. Hofschneider, are soliciting sealed bids for the Repainting of Government Buildings in Capitol Hill.

The project package will be available Tuesday, February 25, 2014 at the Governor's CIP Administrator's Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill. A \$25.00 non-refundable fee for the project package will be assessed. All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) at Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing **no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on March 7, 2014** to Ms. Elizabeth Balajadia of the Capital Improvement Program, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 664-2408.

Sealed bids must be marked "**ITB14-GOV-066**". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than **11:00 a.m. Saipan local time, March 21, 2014**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **11:00 a.m. Saipan local time March 21, 2014**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **March 21, 2014** and must be received no later than **March 28, 2014**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at **2:00 p.m. Saipan local time, March 28, 2014**. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **2:30 p.m. Saipan local time, on March 21, 2014**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen percent (15 %) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations NMIAC Section 70-30.3-245. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price greater than \$25,000.00.

Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

- A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
- A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceeds the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P & S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

- Acceptable asset are only:
- 1) Cash
  - 2) US Government Securities
  - 3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
  - 4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
  - 5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is sixty (60) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be greater of (i) one hundred dollars (\$100.00), or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by sixty (60) calendar days, the contract time and will be assessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ ELOY S. INOS, Governor  
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director  
Procurement and Supply, DOF



# Alleged pimp Basa pleads guilty

Annette N. Basa, a 40-year-old woman accused of recruiting and enticing two minor girls to engage in commercial sex acts, has pleaded guilty.

At a change of plea hearing late Thursday afternoon, Basa, who appeared with court-appointed counsel Steven Pixley, pleaded guilty to count one of the indictment charging her with sex trafficking of children.

Before entering her guilty plea, Manglona told Basa that the offense she would plead guilty to has the lowest prison term of 10 years and a maximum of life imprisonment.

Manglona accepted the

plea agreement and Basa’s guilty plea.

Sentencing will be on June 6, 2014.

According to the plea deal, from April 1, 2013 to July 16, 2013, Basa knowingly recruited and enticed a 15-year-old girl to have sex for pay.

Using a cell phone, Basa arranged meetings with adult men and the girl, and then drove the girl to different sites for the purpose of having those men have sex with her.

Basa provided condoms to the girl for those meetings. She received money and/or quantities of methamphetamine or “ice” as

payment from those men.

The indictment charged Basa and co-defendant Richard S. Benavente of engaging in sexual exploitation and sex trafficking of two minor girls.

According to the indictment, Benavente, a firefighter, had sex with the two girls and recorded the incident using a cell phone. This allegedly happened twice.

The indictment alleged that on April 1, 2013, Basa recruited and enticed the two minors to engage in “commercial sex act.”

A Federal Bureau of Investigation special agent alleged that Benavente took videos of himself having sex with two 15-year-

## Schools to argue criminal case in 16th annual Mock Trial

By **THOMAS MANGLONA II**  
CORRESPONDENT

A total of seven schools will be competing in this year’s 16th CNMI High School Mock Trial competition this Friday at the Guma Hustisia. Friday’s competition will commence at 8:30am and will end with the championship round, tentatively set to begin at 4:30pm.

Participating schools include Marianas High School, Mount Carmel School, Rota’s Dr. Rita H. Inos High School, Marianas Baptist Academy, Kagman High School, Saipan Southern High School, and Tinian High School.

The Mock Trial is a project coordinated by the CNMI Bar Association and this year’s case

problem is a fictitious criminal case, Commonwealth v. Erin Napu. The case, adapted from materials provided by the Center for Civic Values, Albuquerque, New Mexico, takes place in the village of San Pedro in Anatahan County.

The hypothetical case involves Erin Napu who is charged with first degree murder of her husband, JR Satdinas. Napu raised a defense that she was a battered woman and was trying to protect herself from her husband.

Saipan Southern High School senior and mock trial member Katrina Cruz told Saipan Tribune that her team practiced almost every day of the week since the topic was released.

“I feel nervous and scared

but I am ready to compete against other school’s teams. I also really like the case this year and it has been fun analyzing it and understanding how the law plays into it,” she said.

Students will portray the role of attorneys and witnesses and will deliver arguments representing both sides of the case.

Superior and Supreme Court justices will preside over the student trials and local attorneys will serve as jurors and evaluators.

According to the CNMI Bar Association’s website, students will be judged based on their knowledge of the evidence and ability to present a logical and persuasive case.

or “ice” and an unspecified amount of cash.

Benavente recently pleaded guilty.

Former acting CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife director

Raymond Borja Roberto is also facing two charges in the superseding indictment that accused him of paying money for sex with the two girls. He pleaded not guilty. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

## Mariner safe after surviving Pacific storm

**HONOLULU**—A mariner aboard a 24-foot sailboat 944 miles from the main Hawaiian Islands is safe and continuing his voyage to San Francisco after surviving a gale-force storm in the Pacific.

The Coast Guard suspended the search Thursday for the sailing vessel *Pier Pressure* after communication was established with the owner, Rimas Meleshyus.

At 5:15pm, Meleshyus updated his coordinates and sent a text message via satellite device stating he was okay and did not need any assistance.

Watchstanders at the Joint Rescue Coordination Center received notification Thursday

morning from a concerned friend that Meleshyus transmitted a text via satellite stating, “I lost my life raft, in danger now.”

Meleshyus departed Hilo, Hawaii, on Feb. 9 on a solo voyage to San Francisco aboard his sailboat.

After unsuccessful attempts were made to establish communications with Meleshyus via cell phone, computer, and satellite device, the Coast Guard launched a rescue mission in search of the distressed mariner.

An HC-130 Hercules aircraft crew from Coast Guard Air Station Barbers Point, the Coast Guard cutter *Kukui*, homeported in Honolulu, and two Good Samaritan vessels were en route to

the sailboat’s last known position when Meleshyus established communication.

The Coast Guard advises all mariners to ensure they have all necessary safety equipment aboard and that it is in working condition before heading out on the water. This includes having appropriate safety and communications equipment such as lifejackets and a working VHF radio, checking local weather conditions and ensuring the vessel is seaworthy.

Mariners who want to ensure their vessel is safe and compliant with current regulations can request a free safety check by visiting [www.vesselsafetycheck.org](http://www.vesselsafetycheck.org). For more information on boating safety, visit [www.uscgboating.org](http://www.uscgboating.org). *(USCG)*

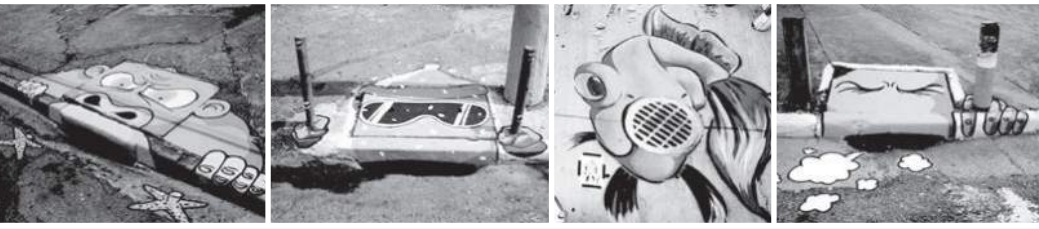
Up for a swim? What about a swim on a storm drain?  
Next time you head for the beach, think about this: all over our island, water flows from Mount Tapochau down into our storm drains, taking with it all the trash and pollution from our watersheds — all of it eventually ending up in the ocean where we swim and fish.



Are you an artist who wants to make a difference?

Submit your storm drain art to BECQ by **TUESDAY, MARCH 18<sup>th</sup>** to win a prize money and the chance to paint your message in Garapan for everyone to see!

Help us Save our Seas!  
For more information, contact Olivia Tenorio of Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality at 664-8500



TO: RAMON M. SAKISAT and the ESTATE of FRANCISCA T. SAKISAT:

You are in default in your Promissory Note date October 9, 1985, secured by a Mortgage of the same date, executed and delivered by you to the Mariana Islands Housing Authority, now known as the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation.

(a) Description of the real property covered by Mortgage:

Lot No. 005 I 523, situated in Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, containing an area of 748 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Survey’s official Cadastral Plat No. 2084/82, the original of which was registered with the Land Registry as Document No. 14232 dated May 14, 1982, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

(b) Date and amount of Promissory Note and Mortgage: October 9, 1985; \$42,000.00

(c) Amount due for principal: \$8,308.24 as of Feb. 1, 2014

(d) Amount due for interest: \$23,170.34 as of Feb. 1, 2014

(e) Daily accruing interest: \$6.35

(f) Late charges -0-

If the principal, interest, and late charges \$31,478.58 as of February 1, 2014 plus accruing interest, together with reasonable attorney’s fee, are not paid within thirty (30) days from the date of service of this notice upon you, you will be in default, and Court proceedings will be commenced against you to foreclose upon the said Mortgage because of the default.

Unless you, within thirty (30) days after receipt of this letter dispute the validity of the claim, or any portion thereof, we will assume that it is valid. If you notify us in writing within this thirty (30) day period that the claim, or any portion thereof, is disputed, we will obtain information on the debt and mail you a copy thereof. Upon your written request within this thirty (30) day period, we will provide you with the name and address of the original creditor, if different from the creditor indicated above.

This letter is an attempt to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for the purpose.

Ti un komle I kontratan debimu (Promissory Note)ni un fitma gi Oktubre dia 9, 1985, ni afabobot I Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ma asegura I tano yan guma ni un empeña gi mismo dia, un fitma yan un entrega I empeña (Mortgage) guato gi Mariana Islands Housing Authority, pagu ma tungo kumu Northern Marianas Housing Corporation.

(a) i deskripsion tano ni ma empeñen (mortgaged):

Sito numeru 005 I 523, ni gaigi Saipan, Note Marianas ni ha konsiste un aria 748 quadro metro, mas pat menus, ni anak gi Cadastral Plat numeru 2084/82, i orihinat ni ma rehistra gi Land Registry kumu document numeru 14232 gi Mayo dia 14, 1982, guihi I deskripsion ni ma incorporate guini ginen I infotmasion.

(b) I kantida yan I fechan este na debi yan empepena: Oktubre dia 9, 1985; \$42,000.00

(c) Kantida un debi para principat: \$8,308.24 asta ki Febrero 1, 2014

(d) Kantida un debi para interes: \$23,170.34 asta ki Febrero 1, 2014

(e) Interes kada dia: \$6.35

(f) Apas pot atrasao (late charges): -0-

Yan ti un apasi I kantida na principat, interes, yan I resanable na apas abugado gi halom trenta (30) dias despues di I fecha ni un resibe este na notisia, un ma konsidera komo ti unkomple I kontratamu (default), ya siempre u-matutuhun kontra hago a kausan kotti ni para uma kondena ya uma dendi I propriadat tano’mu ni un empeña guato gi Northern Marianas Housing Corporation.

Solo yangin halom trenta (30) dias dispues de un resibe este na kata yan un kontra minagahet-ña pot I apudera sino komo I pattida, siempre bai in hongge an asentadu a apudera. Pago yangin un kattayi ham gi halom este I trenta (30) dias siklo man infototma hao pot I apudera sino komo I pattida para un kontra, pues bai in henta infotmasion pot I dibi-mu dispues un ma kattayi I kopia pot este na de’unta. Anai in resibe I katta-mu gi halom trenta (30) dias siklo, , bai in nai’I hao I na’an yan address I akredot komo ti parehu na akredot ma indika guini hulu.

Este na katta para u ma na’kesiña ma rikohi I dibi-mu. Mascha hafa na infotmasion ni in resibe pot este na apudera – siña bai in usa para bai in ke-chagi mu rekohi para este I dibi-mu.

Su Seguro Servidor,  
/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ.  
Attorney at Law



# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER  
Volume XXIV, Issue No. 43Published daily at 2/F JP Center,  
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI  
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR  
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

### EDITORIAL

## Downsized military

The following editorial appeared in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette on Thursday, Feb. 27:

**T**he \$496 billion military budget presented Monday by Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel is a reasonable first step toward re-arranging America's priorities after the Afghanistan and Iraq wars.

Not surprisingly, the spending plan, which is \$75 billion less than the previous budget, has already provoked screeching from members of Congress who are inclined to see defense spending as pork and who are objecting to the financial impact on their districts. Some also smell another opportunity to attack President Barack Obama, this time by charging him with weakening America's defenses.

That last argument is lame since the nation's military power will be maintained through sufficient forces around the globe, advanced weapons systems and technological dominance. Plus, any dollars diverted to domestic needs will strengthen America at home by improving education and health care and rebuilding infrastructure. That, too, helps the country defend itself.

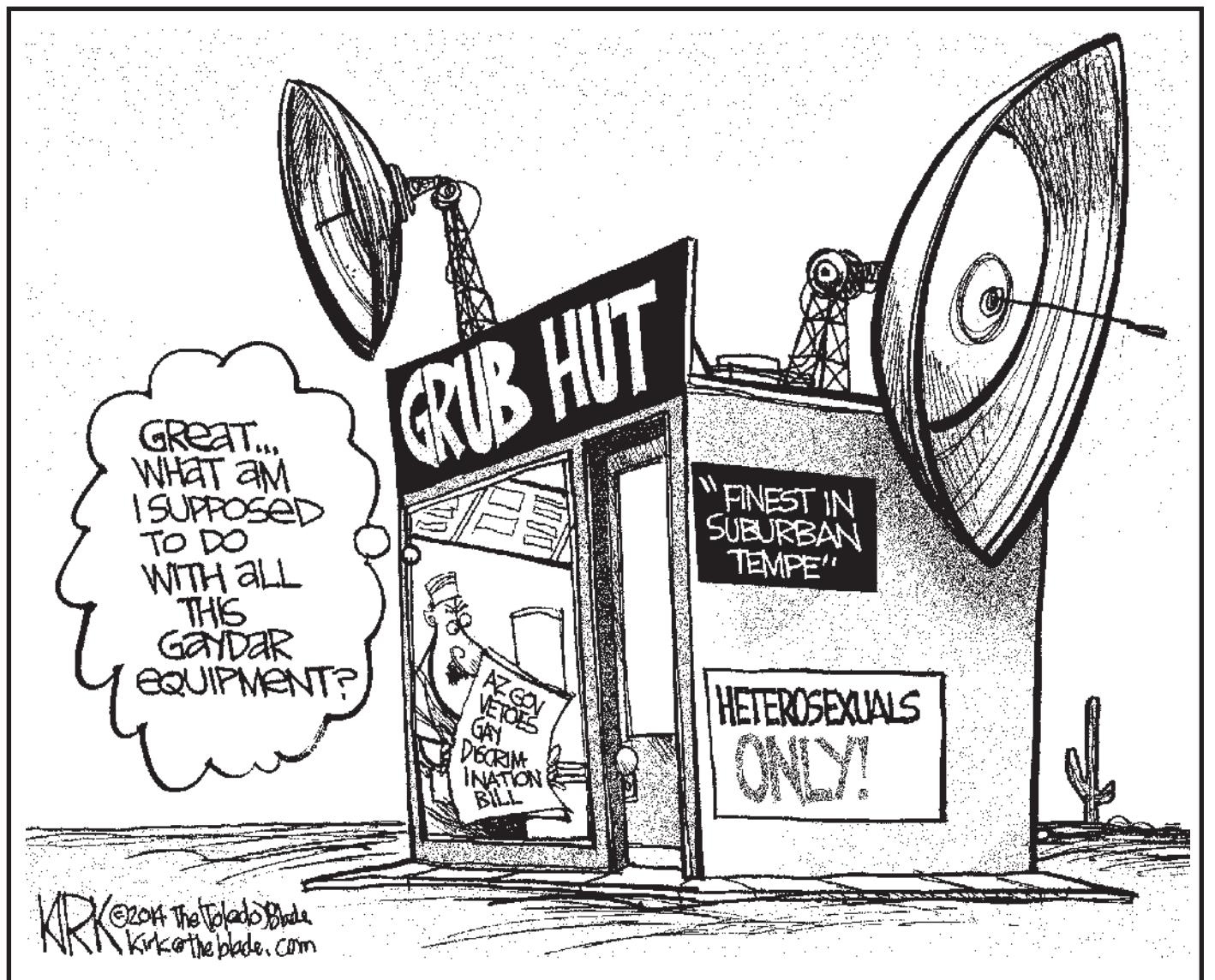
Inherent in the budget's policy is a call for replacing old and obsolete weapons with new systems and forces appropriate to the future. The size of U.S. Army personnel, for instance, would be cut from 522,000 to 450,000. The A-10 Warthog aircraft, a weapon that dates from the 1970s, would be eliminated, saving \$3.5 billion. The U-2 surveillance aircraft would be replaced by Global Hawk drones. Unnecessary bases and commissaries would close. Pentagon planning would assume an America able to fight one large overseas war while maintaining its capacity to defend the homeland.

New emphasis would be placed on improving the ability to wage cyber-war, both offensively and defensively. U.S. capacities in this regard must stay ahead of any enemy's, although care will need to be taken not to provoke attacks on the United States because of its cyber activities.

Although the price tag on the package will be hotly debated, Mr. Hagel's reduced budget proposal is in the ballpark with cuts required by the 2011 Budget Control Act. Even so, it is hard to predict whether the Obama administration plan will face more cuts or new additions by the time it emerges from Congress.

In any case, the downward direction of military size and spending, reflecting a normal postwar reduction of forces and equipment, is the correct course for the United States.

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## A 1945-2031 Memorial

**T**here are two reasons for my being here on Saipan this week. One is to retire properly from PSS. I left on a medical leave due to a diagnosis of spondylosis of the cervical bones. I went for alternative therapy other than surgery.

At the time, the government quit remitting contribution to my retirement fund so I decided to forego the whole referral system, withdrew my contribution, and after getting my neck back to manageable level, applied to return to the system.

Someone at HR was candid enough to "joke" that it would cost the system two entry-level personnel to hire me back, so it would not be surprising if I did not find myself at the top of the recruitment list. Having reached two years beyond the retirement age when I left, I come to get the record straight. I have some conversations to do with the Retirement folks, and PSS.

Second, there is the Social Security System to which I had contributed eight years worth of labor. To qualify for the minimum benefit, 10 years is required. Fine. I am out to ask SS how we would do this. I am not out for a freebie. I just want to know how to benefit from what I already contributed to.

I was retired early this year in China. Xi Jin Ping and Le Ke Qiang want to follow the letter of the law. Since the late '80s when China's systems opened up to the world, the application of exception rather than the rule had prevailed in many areas, including the universities. E.g., Chinese men retire at 60 and women at 55, or so the book said. The rule with foreign teachers had been to limit their employ until they were 65. The cost of health insurance and body maintenance is measurably up past 65. Well, we are already three bends past the finish line (no dime spent on health maintenance in the past three years, I might add), so when my university went to apply for a working visa (there were two of us), the Foreign Affairs Department raised their "whoa," and did not let this horse go past the employment line in the Year of the Horse. I am retired, formally and functionally.

As the Alpine musical (*The Sound of Music*) avers, when a door is closed, a window opens. I had been hacking in this paper now for 10 years, and though I do not particularly think of myself as a writer, I had gotten comfortable with the keyboard and efficient with a word processing program. Given also a reflective and literary bent, I considered writing as a post-professional endeavor in the sunset of my years. Sounds good, except that like any other profession, there is the art and the discipline of the endeavor. We are too old to enroll in school for that.

So I am going headlong into the field. I entered the first year of a Seven Year Itch to write in 2014. This is also where, in this telling, I segue from *retiring* to *re-tiring*. I am putting on a new set of tires. I am obviously not short of passion, and though the

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at [pinoypanda2031@aol.com](mailto:pinoypanda2031@aol.com).



awareness of experience and the consciousness in our reflection had not always been methodical in the research sense, the level of mindfulness where I had been and where I am headed, if told from the language of descriptive narrative rather than metaphysical cognition, can entice and encourage all other Joe Blows and Maria de Tenorios to do the same.

That's the picture of the long haul. We have all kinds of social nets in the Internet now operating, and why not inject a little intentionality to how we present ourselves. What if we have a Facebook-like platform that would allow anyone to write a page, a measured and limited page, for every year of their existence? We are all for participatory this, and participatory the other, so why not a worldwide net of people writing a page of every year of memory, not to be printed for sale but to be Wiki'd for access. The caveat, of course, is that one page per year would be the limit in any presentation. But the db would be searchable. We could certainly expand the reach of our acquaintances, wouldn't we?

Just think of the possibilities. One could link persons one had encountered and places one had been to. If one wanted more information, they could always click on the link. Likewise, given that 99.99 percent of us will probably be earthbound for another century, why not a map that lights up all the places one had visited gleaned automatically from the write-up? Our kids know enough that cognitive overviews, linkages, and nets are the wave of the future already crashing on the shore. This would not create a hierarchy of elites but a network of global folks, all linked by the power of choice, fueled by their intuitions.

I begin my Seven Year Itch of writing with the end in view of doing my one page per year, save that I am writing it from the rim of the grave at 86 rather than at 68. I have seven years to keep it up in digitized format, accessible to anyone interested for free, though all who inquire will be asked how they were doing with theirs as well. Ten years before Dec. 15, 2031, I turn off the memory spigot and unplug the laptop, close the book, and enter a decade of just sheer silence. Why? Pure choice.



# Navigating lame advice

By **JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

*John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*



Sailing into the golden years is irreversible and each of us would eventually reach this part in our life's journey. Indeed, there was a sense of nostalgia as I revisited some 40 active years of my younger days, people I've met, things I've done or didn't do, and advice I've taken or ignored from people.

It's an interesting issue, though, prying into the psychology of why people seek advice. Do they really need it because they're ready to make major changes in their lives? Or was it another half-cocked act in the cocktail of advices they never follow? Hell, I've also had my share of advice seeking or giving which I've failed to follow royally too. Be that as it may...

DPS should have taken the lead, testing its officers for drug use. Surprising, though, that CPA did it and now DPS is threatening to follow suit. Something doesn't add up, *di ba?*

On a larger scale, the feds no longer wish to offer advice to the NMI. We messed it all up and so it took over immigration, minimum wage, labor and health. We fired back with empty shells of our rights to self-government. Anyway, it is highly advisable too that it takes over the Legislature. It should result in huge savings for taxpayers!

Notice how friends turn into instant doctors when they hear you coughing? I don't mind the well-intended advice but when would they learn that they lack medical school competency, therefore, each is a non-MD? Gee! The cocktail of medicine they lip-off are sufficient to cure my cough instantly after a mouthful of bombardment.

We tell young girls "not to get pregnant." It subsequently shifted to "practice safe sex." Now they jump into the back seat of the car asking Mr. Cool, "Your condom or my condom?" No more da kine "condo." It's condom!

Met another non-doctor who said that I should eat salt to neutralize the sugar level in my blood. How do I absolve myself from unsolicited stupidity?

The kind of advice I despise the most are those hailing from without telling us what we already know. I mean do they know that we also went to school and learned how to read, write, speak and do simple math? Why hurl things we've heard a long, long time ago? Eh, we weren't born yesterday *lai, sayu?*

Then we hear layman's ruling that Article 12 is "unconstitutional," even scaffolding their argument with the fancy term "equality." I suppose it's okay to sound intelligent. Thanks that it isn't a court adjudicated opinion. So, it's a half-cocked layman's assertion at best, an unsolicited opinion at worse. Uncle Sam has given Native Americans ownership of their land. What's good for the goose is also good for the gander, right?

Used to buy "happy meal" for my grand kids until the new health premium took the wind out of my pocketbooks. It became a very "unhappy meal" as the kids settled for grandma's cooking.

Political promises have been made for many, many moons, all of which were never delivered. If such is the case, why engage in another set of lunacy and redundancy? Don't these politicians know that we know that they're literally clueless? Hello? Anybody home, *lai?* Could we stop this insanity?

Why do doctors tell patients with lung cancer to stop smoking? Or is it one of those "fill-in-the-blanks" moments when there's nothing else constructive to spout?

How do you talk sense into an alcoholic who begins and ends his day with liquor until he's punched drunk? This guy must have

missed so many sunsets, *di ba?*

I came into the journalism profession by design from upstairs. Eventually, I completed academic competency in journalism graced by years of trials and tribulations—actual experience. The only way to learn news writing or writing itself is to write, daily. Must also stay on top of issues...read, read, and yes, read!

The only advice I took came from my professor who said, "If you failed to make a sixth grader understand your piece then you've failed." My vocabulary, though, is dependent on my target audience. He added that I should use the KISS concept each trip to the mound: Keep It Simple, Stupid! I think I've succeeded.

There are three kinds of people: Those who make things happen, those who watch what happened, and the bunch that didn't know what happened.

In the case of our people, they are asking if the elected elite even know what happened under their charge as "Do-Nothings." This is the elected bunch that didn't know what happened! Seesuzzz!

My giant Chamorro friend weighing over 400 pounds was boasting he would begin a rigorous diet regimen. That's what he said three decades ago. Today, he's stuck to a wheelchair, his knees buckling when he tries to stand up. Advice: None! I mean how do you talk to a 400-pound pig?

At a store that sells human brain, my friend was curious why the Chamorro brain is the largest of them all. Said the cashier, "Oh! Never used!" That explains the problems at home or usual conundrum, *di ba?*

A certain blogger who hides behind the alias SiTunJose hit the undersigned with sarcasm for being an informed citizen. Apparently, the blogger needs remedial work on his reading comprehension and diction. Let me know if you need reading materials.

If he fails grasping sixth grade level write-ups, apparently he flunks even initial apprehension of simple materials, *di ba?* Why should I be faulted for his reading inadequacies? How do you fare when issues boil down to what's known as "educated" or knowledge-based discussions?

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

# Better status and our islands

The buzz about the future of our non-immigrant workers and their families has consistently failed to focus on what can happen and their implications to all of us in the NMI. At the moment, two things may happen: an extension of our CW program or its shutdown.

Some writers have unfairly hammered Kilili because of his stance on better status for these workers. They try to politicize the issue but obviously lack insight on the proposal, current events on the ground in the CNMI, and why it is so pointless to argue about something we can do absolutely nothing about.

First and foremost, this is not about the NMDs. This is an immigration matter, something we have no control over. Whatever happens is all up to the U.S.; we're just victims of circumstances within and beyond our control. Having forfeited our labor and immigration, we can only stand back, anticipate what may happen and prepare for the worst.

There are two options worth exploring: an extension of the CW program through 2019 after which the CWs can apply for a green card or the elimination of this program which will force the exit of those who do not have the status to remain in the NMI.

Take a look at the first option. It will stabilize our workforce and economy to a degree. On the other hand, it does little to deter the growth of our non-immigrant population who outnumber the locals almost 4 to 1 per the 2010 CNMI Census, which showed a total of 15,663 Chamorros and Carolinians out of a population

of 53,883. If the NMDs are concerned about being minorities on their own soil, this already is the case. As for losing control of the Legislature and government, it is only a matter of time before this happens. The number of green cards issued through petition by children of non-immigrant parents has been steady and rising. Time will only broaden the gap between our population numbers.

The second option involves the exodus of more than half of our population. This will most definitely wreak havoc throughout our communities. It will demolish the private sector and certainly grind government operations to a halt. Given the many liabilities of our government, the ridiculous CUC rates, medical referral costs, limited investment opportunities, small land mass coupled with Article 12, local pride among many factors and life will prove a hardship for most our residents. Should this ever happen, poverty will rule these islands.

Instead of arguing useless semantics on better status and immigration control, we need to focus on what we can do now to prepare for the inevitable, whatever it may be. Focus on what we can do, like downsize the government, remove all those assistants and questionable offices, initiate public initiatives for referendums this November on marijuana, amend our Constitution to change our Legislature to one that is unicameral with five or six senators, removing the living allowances of our senators, either clarify the term

Northern Marianas descent or removing altogether in favor of the word "indigenous." The list is endless. Want control? Invite the U.S. to the discussion table under 902 talks and resolve their land grab attempts at Pagan and the airport, our islands taken under the Paramountcy Doctrine, the loss of our 200 mile EEZ, the existing land leases, our submerged lands, immigration policies. Again, the list goes on, but you get my drift.

I am sometimes amazed at how fanatical we can get at the most mundane things and events but remain totally complacent on those that matter. We have been spoiled by the U.S., we've never had to fight for our freedom and rights, we've always pointed fingers, never once looking in the mirror as to the cause of so many of our problems.

Our non-immigrant population has been on island for over two decades and helped lift us out of the post-TT subsistence lifestyle to the flash, glitter, and power of the dollar. There are no doubt a lot of undesirables, those out of status, out of work, druggies, those who discriminate against locals and others that do need to go, but we need to apply a lot of common sense toward a solution that will work for all of us. Anything less will certainly cost us dearly in the long run.

**Noel S. Reyes**  
*Dandan, Saipan*

# An alternative class of candidacy

This is to clarify the objective of my recent "Amend the election law" letter to the editor. If you read the letter carefully you will find that it does not suggest by any means of tearing down the existing language of the CNMI election law. What it proposes is the inclusion of an alternative class of candidacy in order to make available to voters a broader and diversified range of persons for their selections. For instance, many of our sons and daughters are retiring from active military services and returning to the CNMI to settle and take care of their families. In addition, many people who were absent from the CNMI for a period of time are now considering returning to their home of origin and willing to serve in elected offices within the CNMI. These are large pools of CNMI people who were drawn away from these islands in search of a better way of life, and merely seeking for temporary resolve to their medical, educational, employment, and other social or economic needs of the time. In other words, these are people who may have left the CNMI but the CNMI never left them in spirit, honor, respect, value, and love for

their home of origin.

The language in my letter to the editor proposes establishing two types of candidacy classification, i.e., a "domiciled" class candidacy, and a "non-domiciled" class candidacy. For the most part, many U.S. jurisdictions recognized domiciliary standards for voting purposes on two standards: 1. registered voter of a jurisdiction, and 2. intent of residency. A person may have a dual residency status, but still for domiciliary purposes in voting situations, a person will continue to be domiciled where he/she is registered to vote and declaring his or her intended place of residency. In the case of the CNMI, domiciliary standard relating to candidacy qualification for election purposes requires the person to have a continuous residency in the NMI. This may open an argument on semantics and intent of the present election law with respect to domiciliary, in which it may disqualify a candidate who may have a void because of noncompliance with the definition of what constitutes actual "domiciliary" in our election law.

On the other hand, the CNMI is a small jurisdiction in terms of

size of population, and our voters' selection limitations of candidates may be more a problem of the defined restriction of CNMI election law than resulting from a lack of interest of diversified people as potential candidates from and within a broader and available registered voters in the CNMI. Our CNMI voters could find the person with the best qualified, dignified, honest, willing, intelligent, and focused qualifications from all pool of people who are patriotic and mindful in designating the NMI as their home and birth of origin. In view of this, public policy matters are always checked and balanced by their actual and potential impacts. In this case, the alternative means should be considered in order to check and test the law's intended effects, and thereby satisfy that the alternative means would result in enhanced voter utility as they will be better off when they receive the consequential benefits of the alternative.






**Francisco R. Agulto**  
*Kannat Tabla, Saipan*



Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. North winds 20 to 25 mph.	Partly sunny and breezy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Northwest winds 20 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲85° ▼75°	▲86° ▼75°	▲86° ▼75°	▲87° ▼75°	▲87° ▼75°

### Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲86 ▼77
Palau	Cloudy	▲85 ▼75
Yap	Cloudy	▲86 ▼76
Chuuk	Cloudy	▲85 ▼79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲86 ▼79
Kosrae	Showers	▲86 ▼79
Majuro	Showers	▲86 ▼80

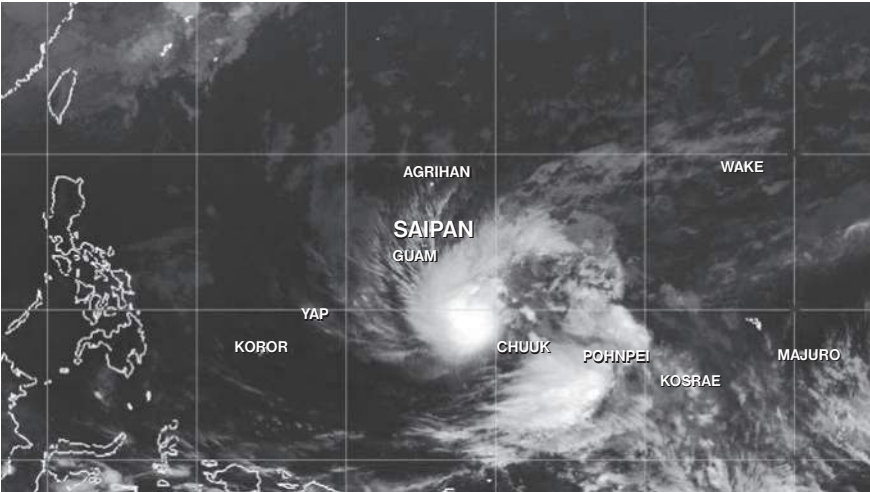
### Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲69 ▼59
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲50 ▼29
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲70 ▼63
Honolulu	Sunny	▲78 ▼66
London	Showers	▲49 ▼36
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲66 ▼53
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲88 ▼74
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲85 ▼61
Miami	Sunny	▲81 ▼66
New York	Snow	▲25 ▼17
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲54 ▼42
Paris	Showers	▲48 ▼37
Pusan	Mostly Cloudy	▲54 ▼40
Rome	Showers	▲56 ▼41
Salem	Rain	▲51 ▼46
San Francisco	Showers	▲60 ▼52
Seoul	Cloudy	▲51 ▼30
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲51 ▼40
Washington, DC	Frozen Rain	▲33 ▼19

### Tides

Saipan Harbor				
3:01 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet	
9:07 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet	
3:30 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet	
9:18 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet	

### Yesterday's Satellite Image



**PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, MARCH 3, 2014**  
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical Storm Faxai (03W) is centered near 10N149E or 390 miles southeast of Guam with maximum sustained winds of 60 mph and is moving northwestward at 7 mph. Numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring near the center between 12N and 7N from 146E to 150E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found east of the Marianas within 100 miles of a line from 12N148E to 15N151E to 13N158E. For more information on Tropical Storm Faxai, see advisories issued by the National Weather Service under WMO header WTPQ31 PGUM and bulletins issued by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO header WTPN31 PGTW. A near-equatorial trough stretches northeastward from south of Mindanao through 2N130E to Tropical Storm Faxai then turns southeastward to end southwest of Tarawa at EQ169E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are observed over parts of Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae states between 11N and the equator from 150E to 165E. A surface trough extends southeastward from 20N138E to 11N141E. Scattered showers and are located west of the Marianas within 90 miles of a line from 21N137E to 1N141E. A shear line runs southwestward from 15N180 to 10N161E. Low clouds and scattered showers are found north of the Marshall Islands along and up to 240 miles northeast of this boundary. A trade wind disturbance is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms east of the Marshall Islands between 10N and 1N from 173E to the date line.

### Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:33 AM	6:25 PM
Tuesday	6:33 AM	6:25 PM
Wednesday	6:32 AM	6:25 PM
Thursday	6:31 AM	6:25 PM
Friday	6:31 AM	6:26 PM

### Moonrise/Moonset

Today	7:41 AM	8:16 PM
Tuesday	8:28 AM	9:13 PM
Wednesday	9:14 AM	10:08 PM
Thursday	10:01 AM	11:02 PM
Friday	10:49 AM	11:54 PM

## GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
  - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS**  
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
  - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS**  
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
  - BUSINESS**  
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
  - SAMUT SARI**  
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
  - TRAVELOGUE**  
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
  - COMMUNITY BRIEFS**

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN**  
Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

#### REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
  - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
  - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
  - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
  - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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  - Fax: (670) 235-3740
  - Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
  - Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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**SUBSCRIPTION** Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

**ADVERTISING** For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: [sales@saipantribune.com](mailto:sales@saipantribune.com)

## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 25, 2014

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
<b>SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)</b> UA5070 4:15am 5:05am Daily UA5068 8:40am 9:30am Daily UA5039 1:35pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota UA5038 2:20pm 3:10pm 2, 3, 6 UA5078 6:05pm 6:55pm Daily UA5072 9:50pm 10:40pm Daily	<b>GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN</b> UA5069 2:45am 3:35am Daily UA5071 7:15am 8:05am Daily UA5039 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 UA5038 12:10pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6 via Rota UA5077 4:45pm 5:35pm Daily UA5079 8:30pm 9:20pm Daily
<b>SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)</b> UA5039 1:35pm 2:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7	<b>GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)</b> UA5038 12:10pm 12:45pm 2, 3, 6
<b>ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)</b> UA5039 2:40pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7	<b>ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN</b> UA5038 1:15pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6
<b>SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)</b> OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily	<b>OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN</b> OZ120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 Daily
<b>SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)</b> DL287 6:00am 8:40am Daily DL297 4:30pm 7:20pm Daily	<b>NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN</b> DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL288 8:55pm 1:30am+1 Daily
<b>SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)</b> OZ608 3:10am 6:20am 1, 4, 5, 7	<b>BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN</b> OZ607 9:00pm 1:50am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
<b>SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)</b> OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ102 2:20am 5:50am 3 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ603 3:30am 7:20am 4, 7 (will increase eff Jan 29) DZ104 2:00pm 5:30pm 6 OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	<b>SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN</b> DZ101 8:30am 2:00pm 3 OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily DZ103 7:30pm 1:00am+1 6 OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 OZ6053 9:10pm 2:30am+1 3, 6 (will increase eff Jan 29)
<b>SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)</b> 3U8648 6:10am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7	<b>SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN</b> 3U8647 10:40pm 5:00am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
<b>SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)</b> MU764 4:00am 8:00am 1, 5	<b>BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN</b> MU763 7:20pm 3:00am+1 4, 7
<b>SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)</b> 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	<b>GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN</b> 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
<b>SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)</b> OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 via ICN OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA5070/191 4:15am 9:05am 3, 6 via GUM DL287/473 6:00am 10:55pm Daily via NRT UA5068/PR111 8:40am 4:45pm 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM UA5039/183 1:35pm 9:30pm 5 via Guam UA5039/183 1:35pm 9:50pm 1, 4, 7 via Guam UA5038/183 2:20pm 9:30pm 2 via GUM OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN UA5078/183 6:05pm 9:50pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	<b>MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN</b> OZ704/603 12:10am 2:20pm Daily PR110/UA5072 7:35am 5:35pm 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM DL172/288 7:45am 1:30am+1 Daily via NRT UA190/5077 9:55am 5:35pm 2, 7 via Guam UA190/5079 10:00am 5:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN UA184/5071 10:55pm 8:05am+1 1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM UA184/5071 11:59pm 8:05am+1 2, 5 via GUM
<b>SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)</b> OZ606/721 2:10am 11:50am 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 11:50am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA5068/179 8:40am 10:35pm 1, 5 via GUM UA5038/179 2:20pm 10:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ604/749 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	<b>HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN</b> OZ746/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ724/605 1:50pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN UA180/5071 11:10pm 8:05am+1 1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
<b>SAIPAN-TIANJIN (TSN)</b> D2884 10:45am 2:45pm Jan 25, 30, Feb 4, 9, 14, 24	<b>TIANJIN (TSN)-SAIPAN</b> D2885 4:45pm 12:20am+1 Jan 25, 30, Feb 4, 9, 14, 24
<b>SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)</b> D2880 4:30pm 8:00pm Jan 28, Feb 2, 7, 12, 17, 22, 27	<b>HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN</b> D2881 10:00pm 5:15am+1 Jan 28, Feb 2, 7, 12, 17, 22, 27
<b>SAIPAN-WUHAN (WUH)</b> D2882 11:00am 3:15pm Jan 27, Feb 1, 6, 11, 16, 21, 26	<b>WUHAN (WUH)-SAIPAN</b> D2883 5:15pm 12:20am+1 Jan 27, Feb 1, 6, 11, 16, 21, 26

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air; D: Dynamic Airways.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

## FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>							
FRE 100	17:50	18:20	Daily				
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>				<b>Tinian-Saipan</b>			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
<b>Rota-Guam</b>				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
<b>Rota-Guam</b>				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
<b>Saipan-Tinian</b>				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
				FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.com](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.com)



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

# Extradition as political posturing

It is election year and Vice Speaker Frank S. Dela Cruz has already turned on the fan to have former governor Benigno Fitial extradited from the Philippines. I am no fan of the former governor nor of Rep. Dela Cruz but I am apprehensive of his motive, which appears to be from push to shoving the present governor to do something about it. Time is of the essence here, I would suspect, for the vice speaker because election is only seven months away. I don't believe in political party platforms as they are more often than not shelved to

collect dust after an election is lost and at times more so when an election is won. Short-term memory mindset.

I hope the vice speaker will not continue this extradition crusade as his campaign theme and platform between now and November. It serves the voting public better if he'd come up with some brilliant idea that can mitigate if not solve the multitude of financial obligations of the CNMI government because the voting public will be bored, I will be bored, and the Judiciary will be bored as well with the extradition theme.

The Fitial impeachment clamor worked in the last election but it will not work this time. The public is hurting financially at every turn and Fitial's extradition will not lessen the family bills to pay, provide relief to the 25 percent retirement cut, and lower their utility bills and lower their health insurance premium, among other pressing issues.

The voting public is also more interested in knowing what the vice speaker has accomplished in the last three terms as a lawmaker and what he intends to offer the voting public this time other than the extradition of an individual that has not even been arrested. Special prosecutor Haselback made this very clear. Apparently, Rep. Dela Cruz failed to consult with a legal counsel about the extradition process before spouting his

unprofessional opinion on TV and in newspaper interviews.

I really don't know what Rep. Dela Cruz had accomplished as a legislator in the lower house. The only things that came out from his office since being elected to public office are the following: (1) perennial clashing with CUC for personal aggrandizement and re-election posturing; (2) crusaded with other representatives to impeach Fitial. It was a collective accomplishment and he became a vice speaker as a result, I guess; (3) nothing worth noting on revenue generation for the government. He has not come up with one revenue generating idea to help the financially strapped government. It is very convenient and easy to scrutinize anything that moves but to offer solutions of substance and structurally sound is a different thing and the vice speaker is in this club; (4) vice speaker

Dela Cruz is very opposed to having a 2nd Political Status Commission because he wants the federal government to do everything for the CNMI. A colonial subject mentality. I think that Rep. Dela Cruz has *no faith in the competence* of the CNMI leaders (including himself) to handle CNMI affairs and to challenge the federal government's violations on sovereignty and self-government issues stipulated in the Covenant Agreement with the United States. He bows and kisses Uncle Sam's ring regardless of whether it is for the right or wrong reasons; (5) to ante this extradition campaign theme, he is pushing the current governor to stop everything that he is tackling like the contentious 25 percent retirement pension deferral, severely underfunded health-care services at CHC, costly Obamacare insurance premium, costly CUC utility rates,

the military's planned use of CNMI islands that will cause economic, environment and social disruptions, aggressive efforts to explore revenue generating sources, and so forth.

Rep. Dela Cruz wants the governor to do everything and anything to get Fitial extradited before the November election. I say no to this kind of political posturing by Vice Speaker Frank Dela Cruz. Stop the media politicking, roll up your sleeves and get on the wagon to go to work on revenue generating explorations for more revenues like some other lawmakers in the House of Representatives and the Inos administration. *Talantan hao Frank ya un fa-chocho sa ti para un sigeha matachong gi ofisinamo, man insora, umabla ya otro siha chumochogue y chechomo.*

**Joseph A. Sablan**  
*Kagman III, Saipan*

# The 'I don't know' governor

I have never seen a governor who has mastered the response of "I don't know" whenever a question is directed to him, and when to say it. I have also never seen a governor who does not understand the phrase "the buck stops here" as pertaining to the position he holds. Let me give you some examples.

When Gov. Eloy S. Inos orchestrated the termination of Commonwealth Ports Authority executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero some months ago, he was asked by the media whether he had any knowledge about it and his response was, "I don't know."

When Inos offered former lieutenant governor Diego Benavente the job to replace Deleon Guerrero, and masterminded the runarounds including a board action reducing the position's qualifications, again he was asked by the media whether he had any knowledge about it and his response was an absolute, "I don't know."

When Inos put former governor Juan N. Babauta before a firing squad at the Commonwealth Health Center board for purely political reasons, he was asked again by the media whether he had any knowledge about it, his response was "I don't know."

When Inos was busy working behind the scenes for the impeachment of former governor Benigno R. Fitial, he was asked by the media again whether he had any knowl-

edge about it, his response was a definite "I don't know."

Given the above historical pattern of responses of "I don't know," I would like to surmise that he had no knowledge of his appointment of attorney Ramon Quichocho for judge, his firing of DCCA Secretary Melvin Faisao, CRM administrator Rita Camacho Chong, Indigenous Affairs executive director Ike Deleon Guerrero Demapan, Thomas Babauta Castro, 74, employee of the Division of Agriculture, and Dr. John Joyner, among others casualties.

He also had no knowledge about the plight of thousands of retirees who have lost 25 percent of their hard earned pensions.

And, I suspect that he has no knowledge about the most damaging and destructive impact of the As Gonno Chinese double homicide as it relates to the security and public safety of our community and our fragile tourism industry. He has yet to say even a word about it! We need to go after those who committed these merciless killings with all our might...we must clean up our islands of the root causes of these activities, particularly if they are drug related.

And I will bet you he has no knowledge about the decision of our Saipan Mayor Donald A. Flores to abandon the Inos/Torres group forever.

And also he has no knowl-

edge about his duty as chief executive on extradition issues, which tells us that he does not want to have anything to do with it! If Gov. Inos does not know anything about the \$190 million power plant deal or any other things, why should he be afraid about requesting extradition that is clearly part of his executive power? Why the reluctance, is he in a conflict of interest? Governor, please stop passing the buck around! This buck stops at your desk!

In all my life under a democratic form of government, I have never seen a governor who has ruthlessly purged and massacred so many of his own people in so short a time, which reminds me of the many similarities of North Korean dictatorial tyrant Kim Jong Un's modus operandi! Most especially when the election of the governor is just around the corner. Which begs the question: is Gov. Inos really serious about running for governor?

And last but not least, does Gov. Inos know that he is very sick to be holding the highest and most important constitutional office in our land and compromising our people's interest? If he does not know, the voters can help him decide come this November election!

**Juan S. Demapan**  
*San Vicente, Saipan*

# Using YouTube for learning

I admit I'm an advocate for tablet learning. Kids already know how to touch a screen and YouTube. I was at the MHS PTA meeting on Wednesday night and the 40 or so parents attending were pretty aware of how things are at the school but I don't think they have a clue as to how their kids are being taught. I talked to six students that were doing their homework on netbooks and laptops during

the meeting and found out that YouTube is blocked at MHS, which is funny since it is also blocked at WSR Hopwood, and two other schools I have checked. The 10 largest libraries on the planet have, collectively, about 190 million books in them. YouTube has an estimated 2.8 billion videos that includes reviews of all those books. Incidentally, there are 655,000 videos on

how to bypass schools' blocking of YouTube; yep, on YouTube. So, I'm asking this question: Why are adults blocking, or think they are blocking, the largest, most comprehensive collection of knowledge ever assembled on Earth—knowledge these kids need to function in the 21st century?

**Gary Dubrall**  
*Chalan Piao, Saipan*



## Kanoa Resort

Saipan

### (1) OPERATIONS MANAGER

Qualifications: Associate's Degree or a minimum of two years experience preferably in Tourism, Hotel & Restaurant or Business Management. Ability to work flexible hours including nights, weekends, and holidays. Must possess strong leadership and communication skills. Organized, motivated, analytical and creative, as well as comfortable in directing others. Must be proficient in various computer software applications and has a proven track record of meeting budgets, an understanding of P&L statements and cost/inventory control.

### (1) MANAGER, SPORTS AND RECREATION

Qualifications: Associates degree in an appropriate field or equivalent years of relevant experience. At least 3 years experience in sports and recreation, at managerial capacity, in a five-star Hotel, Club, or Resort. Team player, excellent communication, organizational, and multitasking skills are a must. Must be able to work flexible hours including nights, weekends, and holidays.

### (4) GUEST SERVICES AGENT

Qualifications: High School diploma or GED certificate. Minimum of 2 years work experience in providing quality customer and personal services. Must be able to handle customer complaints with efficiency. Have multitasking skills, be detailed-oriented, and be able to solve problems in order to effectively deal with internal and external customers. Must be able to work flexible hours including nights, weekends and holidays.

### (1) GARDENER / LANDSCAPER

Qualifications: High school graduate or equivalent. Two years previous work experience. Basic knowledge of Horticulture. Must be able to work outdoors exposed to all weather conditions. Employees in these occupations need anywhere from a few days to a few months of training.

### (1) ELECTRICIAN

Qualifications: High School graduate or equivalent. Able to service, repair, calibrate, regulate, fine-tune or test machines, devices and equipment that operate primarily on electrical or electronic principles. Must be able to work in a flexible way that allows for changes in assignments and priorities depending upon identified needs of the department. Minimum of five (5) years work experience required.

### (1) A/C REFRIGERATION MECHANIC / TECHNICIAN

Qualifications: Able to install and repair industrial and commercial refrigeration systems. Require post-secondary instruction from technical and trade schools or community colleges that offer programs in air-conditioning and refrigeration or and associate's degree. Completion of an apprenticeship program or two (2) to four (4) years of experience.

### (4) FOOD AND BEVERAGE WAIT STAFF

Qualifications: High school diploma or equivalent. At least 6 months serving experience preferably in hotel operations. Good customer service, communications and interpersonal skills are required. Knowledge of cash, check and credit card handling procedures required.

### (4) LIFEGUARD

Qualifications: High school diploma or equivalent. Must be able to swim and have an outgoing personality and the ability to motivate with enthusiasm. Proposed ideas or find ways to improve services, systems and/or procedures. Direct and lead activities for guests of all ages. Certified CPR, First Aid and Lifeguard.

### (1) EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Qualifications: Associate's Degree preferred. At least two years of relevant experience. Provide high-level administrative support by conducting research, preparing statistical reports, handling information requests, preparing financial statements, and performing clerical functions such as preparing correspondence, receiving visitors, arranging conference calls, and scheduling meetings. May also train and supervise lower-level clerical staff.

Interested applicants may send their applications to [hr@kanoaresort.com](mailto:hr@kanoaresort.com). Application forms may be obtained at our Security Office located at the back wing of our resort. To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than March 6, 2014. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

**Kanoa Resort is an Equal Opportunity Employer**  
**Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.**



# Tanapag youth march against drugs and alcohol

By THOMAS MANGLONA II  
CORRESPONDENT

What started out as a small youth baseball team in November 2012 has evolved into a youth movement in the village of Tanapag. The Talaabwogh Santa Remedios Association, or T-StaR, formed the baseball team then in an effort to provide alternative activities for the village's youth. Not too long after its founding, residents decided to expand the organization to provide the youth with more activities.

"We want to keep the youth busy and saw the need to give more to the kids, especially because they live in a village where kids are susceptible to using drugs and alcohol," T-StaR group member Maira Arriola told *Saipan Tribune*.

On Saturday night, the group held its 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Alcohol and Drug-free talent show in conjunction with the Santa Remedios and San Roque parishes' prayer rally.

The four-hour event started with a procession around Tanapag village, leading up to the Tanapag Beach Round House. Parishioners of all ages marched on the streets of Tanapag while reciting the Holy Rosary.

According to Santa Remedios pastor Rev. Fr. Florentino Recaido Jr. the prayer-rally is dedicated to Santa Remedios' parish members. "Our main intention is to let them get away from any form of addiction. A lot of this is possible through the Talaabwogh Association."

After the procession dozens

of youth parishioners showcased their talents in dance, song, and poetry that illuminated the issue of drugs and alcohol in the community. The event also featured a mini-raffle.

Greg Magofna, a former drug user, was invited to the event as the inspirational guest speaker. Magofna talked about the tragic effects of drug use in his life and encouraged the youth to seek a better path in their lives if they were to ever encounter drugs and alcohol.

"He was very inspirational and his speech opened my eyes to the reality of what drugs can do to people," one youth parishioner said. "Events like this really remind me of how precious life is and why we need to be careful. The T-StaR and parish [Santa Remedios] are great and am glad to be a part of it."



PHOTOS BY THOMAS A. MANGLONA II

Santa Remedios Parish altar servers lead dozens of youth and adult parishioners in the church's 2<sup>nd</sup> annual "Prayer Pep-rally" procession walk and T-StaR Alcohol and Drug free talent show last Saturday night at the Tanapag Beach Round House.



Fr. Nonoy Recaido of Santa Remedios and San Roque parish welcomes dozens of parishioners at Saturday night's celebration.

Arriola also noted that the association is composed of 12 adult core members. She said, "We want to help kids avoid the usage of drugs and alcohol. When they do not have any activities they get bored and when they get bored they turn to drugs and alcohol. That is why we do these things, so our kids can be involved. We are passionate about giving back to our own village."

Santa Remedios Parish and the Talaabwogh Association both have plans for future community programs. Recaido shared that members are currently looking into developing a program to fight childhood obesity in collaboration with NMC-CREES.



Parishioners walk around Tanapag while reciting the Holy rosary.



Members of the Talaabwogh Santa Remedios Association.



Young parishioners, from right, Lucio Aldan, Cody Camacho, and JR Suel pose for a photo while registering at the Tanapag Beach Round House.



More children sign up for Friday night's festivities.



Altar servers and church members are all smiles at the T-StaR talent show.



# Accreditation Reaffirmation Celebration

PHOTOS by NMC



Northern Marianas College employees celebrated the reaffirmation of NMC's accreditation last week. They were joined by community members and partners.



Cupcakes passed out at NMC's accreditation reaffirmation celebration were decorated with the college theme, "Believe."



NMC students are all smiles during NMC's accreditation reaffirmation celebration.



NMC employee Eileen Babauta, left, is joined by NMC students to prepare the BBQ burgers for NMC's accreditation reaffirmation celebration held at NMC last week.

NMC president Dr. Sharon Hart addresses the campus community during NMC's accreditation reaffirmation celebration held at NMC last week.



NMC president Dr. Sharon Hart, second from left, is joined by legislators and the Japan Consulate during NMC's accreditation reaffirmation celebration. From left, Rep. Roman Benavente, Dr. Hart, Sen. Ray Yumul, Rep. Antonio Agulto, Rep. Ralph Demapan, Rep. Edmund Villagomez, and Japan's Saipan Counsel Hitoshi Kikuchi .



Students Ervin Cruz (holding frame) and Erica Dela Rosa (standing next to Cruz) read the resolution that was presented by the CNMI House of Representatives to congratulate NMC on its accreditation reaffirmation.



Nursing students pose with nursing instructor Hervin Jacinto during NMC's accreditation reaffirmation celebration held at NMC last week.



NMC students enjoyed burgers, hotdogs, and other goodies at NMC's accreditation reaffirmation celebration.



NMC employees serve hamburgers and hot dogs to students and community members during the college's accreditation reaffirmation celebration.



# Guam sailors celebrate African-American History Month

By JESSE LEON GUERRERO  
JOINT REGION MARIANAS PUBLIC AFFAIRS

**SANTA RITA, Guam**—Sailors from U.S. Naval Base Guam celebrated African-American History Month at the base chapel on Feb. 28.

The NBG Multicultural Committee coordinated the event to honor the accomplishments and sacrifices of civil rights leaders such as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Medgar Evers, who is Mississippi's first field secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

"This definitely has an impact on me," said NBG Yeoman 3rd Class Akeem Williams. "Being a young African-American, it's nice to know that the Navy celebrates diversity and to know that I am welcome amongst my peers and co-workers."

The committee presented a historical slideshow that highlighted the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s that saw many black and white Americans protesting for an end to discrimination and segregation. This year marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Civil Rights Act that President Lyndon Johnson signed into law July 2,



JESSE LEON GUERRERO

U.S. Naval Base Guam commanding officer Capt. Mike Ward speaks about the strength of the Navy through diversity during a celebration of African-American History Month at the base chapel in Santa Rita on Feb. 28.



JESSE LEON GUERRERO

U.S. Naval Base Guam Yeoman 3rd Class Philip Godfrey recounts the history of the Civil Rights Movement with a slideshow presentation, as part of a celebration of African-American History Month at the base chapel in Santa Rita on Feb. 28.



JESSE LEON GUERRERO

U.S. Naval Base Guam Yeoman 3rd Class Philip Godfrey recounts the history of the Civil Rights Movement with a slideshow presentation as part of a celebration of African-American History Month at the base chapel in Santa Rita Feb. 28.

1964. That national milestone prohibited discrimination based on race, color of skin, religion, sex, and national origin.

NBG commanding officer Capt. Mike Ward said combining people's differences, such as their culture, experiences and skills, with the Navy's core values creates a strategic advantage for the U.S. military.

"What we're celebrating throughout the year is the fact

that our Navy is a diverse culture and it is reflective of our society," Ward said. "The fact that we bring [in] people from all walks of life, from all parts of the country, some from other countries to join our military makes us a better military. It makes us better people, better Sailors."

According to NAVADMIN 016/14, African-Americans make up more than 17 percent

of the Navy's active-duty forces and they participate in all facets of naval operations.

This African-American History Month celebration is one of several events that the base holds throughout the year in recognition of American history and social progress. The NBG Multicultural Committee is looking at hosting an upcoming event that will commemorate women's equality and suffrage.



JESSE LEON GUERRERO

U.S. Naval Base Guam commanding officer Capt. Mike Ward, center, NBG Security Master-at-Arms Seaman Kristen Goldman, and NBG Yeoman 3rd Class Philip Godfrey cut a cake to recognize African-American History Month at the base chapel in Santa Rita on Feb. 28.





CNMI Women's Association takes a group photo after the signing of CNMI Women's Month proclamation.

JAYSON CAMACHO

## Hofschneider inks four proclamations

Acting governor Jude Hofschneider dashed off four proclamation signings on Friday on Capitol Hill, with four different organizations that want to raise public awareness on different issues.

Over 80 people attended the proclamation signings. Among them were government agency officials, representatives, community members, supporters, and the media.

All proclamations designated March as the official month to highlight the specific objectives of the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities, NMI Girl Scouts, American Red Cross, and CNMI Woman's Association.

### CNMI Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

More than 50 people showed up for the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities' proclamation signing at 10am.

"This is a time for us to focus on helping the public better understand the important contributions of our citizens with disabilities," said Hofschneider.

The proclamation, which designates the month of March as CNMI Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, seeks to raise the community's awareness of disabilities that affect more than six million American children and adults of all ages.

The CDD's major goal is to undertake progressive advo-

cacy, capacity building, and systemic changes to ensure that individuals with developmental and other disabilities, together with their families, participate in the design of and have access to needed community services, individualized supports, and other forms of assistance promoting self-determination, productivity, independence, integration, and inclusion in all facets of community life.

The CDD states that residents with disabilities shall have equal access to all government services, employment, communication, labor, housing, public accommodations, education, transportation, health and child care, and recreation.

"We shall undertake reasonable actions necessary to carry out its principal mandate," said John Deleon Guerrero Demapan Jr., acting CDD chair. "Look at us as people with abilities and not disabilities."

### Girl Scout Month

The CDD proclamation was immediately followed by the Girl Scout's proclamation at 11am, which designated the month of March as Girl Scout Month. The occasion will also mark the 102<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of the founding of the Girl Scouts of the USA on March 12, 2014. March 9 to March 15 will officially be Girl Scout Week.

The occasion will honor the Girl Scout movement, which

has been a channel for girls of all ages to make important contributions to their communities, including here in the Commonwealth. The group also enables girls to develop self-esteem and leadership skills, and provides them with an atmosphere of warm and true friendship. It not only reflects the enduring values and standards that have been part of an organization since 1912, but also lends itself to the special and unique situation of girls in the new millennium.

Sisters Meanne Hembra, 9, who is in 4<sup>th</sup> grade, Mariel Hembra, 7, who is in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, and Rania Boyer, 7, also in the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, said they joined Girl Scouts "to help people, animals who have been hurt, and save our people."

Hofschneider said, "I encourage everyone to support in every way the activities and endeavors of the NMI Girl Scouts."

### American Red Cross Month

March has also been designated as a special time for the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter to recognize and thank the everyday heroes who reach out to help when they are needed. They have been doing many community outreaches over the year and will cap of the month on March 29 with the American Red Cross Walkathon.

Representatives of the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter invite the community to partici-



NMI Girl Scouts attend the proclamation signing designating the month of March as Girl Scout Month.

JAYSON CAMACHO

pate in this year's edition of the walkathon. The walkathon usually attracts about 3,000 participants every year.

At the proclamation signing, the focus was on the "everyday heroes" of the Northern Mariana Islands who give so much to help people in times of disasters by delivering emergency food, clothing, shelter and a shoulder to lean on.

"When an injured service member ended up in a hospital far from home, the American Red Cross offered comfort. When a hospital patient needed blood, American Red cross blood donors helped them. When a lifeguard jumped in to save a drowning child or someone stepped up to help a heart attack victim, the Ameri-

can Red Cross was there," the proclamation states.

Hofschneider encouraged the community of Saipan, Rota, and Tinian to support the organization and its noble humanitarian mission.

### CNMI Women's Month

March is also CNMI Women's Month and March 8, 2014, has been designated as CNMI Women's Day. It is a global celebration of the economic, educational, political, and social achievements of women past, present, and future.

The CNMI Women's Association is the beacon and strength for all women of the CNMI and is committed to advocating, guiding, and lighting the way for the continued progress and

prosperity of the CNMI.

They will host a series of events during the month of March highlighting the accomplishments of women and honoring their role in shaping the course of the nation's history.

Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) said, "Women of the CNMI continue to serve our nation at the highest levels of government and our armed forces and have made contributions to the growth and strength of our community."

Hofschneider called upon the people of the CNMI to unite and support equality for all women, and participate in the events, programs, ceremonies and activities scheduled in honor of CNMI Women's Month and Women's Day. *(Jayson Camacho)*



Acting governor Jude Hofschneider and acting Saipan mayor Ramon B. Camacho pose with American Red Cross-NMI Chapter officers and volunteers.

JAYSON CAMACHO



Children, parents, supporters, and CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities attend the proclamation signing on Feb. 28, 2014, declaring the month of March as CNMI Disability Awareness Month.

JAYSON CAMACHO



# Business

## Hopes for sunnier US economy

WASHINGTON (AP)—When the weather warms up, so, too, will the U.S. economy.

That, at least, is the prevailing view of economists, who shrugged off a government report Friday that the economy was weaker last quarter than first thought.

Severe winter weather is probably slowing growth again this quarter. But as the chill and snow fade into memory, long-delayed spending by consumers and businesses could invigorate the economy starting in spring.

"Weather is having an impact on a lot of the data," said Doug Handler, chief economist at IHS Global Insight. "We will likely see a boost from pent-up demand in coming weeks."

In the view of most analysts, the snowstorms and extreme cold have exerted a harmful but only temporary effect on the economy. That belief helps explain why Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen signaled this week that the Fed will likely continue reducing its stimulus for the economy throughout 2014.

The Commerce Department said Friday that the economy grew at a 2.4 percent annual rate last quarter, in part because con-

sumers didn't spend as much as initially estimated. Initially, Commerce had estimated that the economy expanded at a 3.2 percent rate in the October-December quarter.

One reason the government initially overestimated growth for last quarter was that it didn't fully take account of how much bad weather would dampen spending on long-lasting goods such as autos.

Last quarter's increase in the gross domestic product—the economy's total output of goods and services—was the weakest showing since the first quarter of last year. And it was down sharply from a 4.1 percent growth rate in the third quarter.

Economists had long expected growth to slow in the final quarter of 2013 and the first quarter this year compared with the third quarter of last year. In part, that's because GDP growth during last year's third quarter was fueled by an unsustainable buildup in company stockpiles that would need to be worked down.

But analysts said the slowdown has been magnified by a succession of winter storms that have disrupted economic activ-

ity—from forcing temporary closings of Macy's and other department stores to depressing sales at McDonald's restaurants. Home Depot Inc. said it lost \$100 million from bad weather in January.

The damage from consumer spending has been especially acute because it accounts for about 70 percent of economic activity. Economists foresee further spending weakness in the first three months of this year largely because of the weather.

"Due to Mother Nature, quarter one is not going to be anything worth writing home about," Jennifer Lee, senior economist at BMO Capital Markets, wrote in a research note. "The rebound ... and all of that pent-up demand won't show up until the second quarter."

Lee predicted a tepid economic growth rate of around 1.7 percent this quarter.

A separate report Friday also provided hope for a stronger economy in coming months. The University of Michigan's monthly index of consumer sentiment showed that while bad weather kept consumers away from retail outlets, it hasn't shaken their confidence.

## Samsung Galaxy S5 has fingerprint scanner

By SALVADOR RODRIGUEZ  
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Samsung has unveiled the Galaxy S5, the latest version of its flagship smartphone. The device includes a fingerprint scanner and will go on sale in April.

Unlike in previous years, when Samsung announced new Galaxy S models with larger and larger screens, this year the South Korean tech giant focused its presentation on a handful of key features.

Samsung said the Galaxy S5 will include a fingerprint scanner that can be used to unlock the phone and make mobile payments. If this sounds familiar, that's because Apple introduced a similar feature with the iPhone 5S when that device was announced in September.

The South Korean tech also said it has improved the camera on its flagship device by giving the gadget a 16-megapixel camera. Samsung claims the Galaxy S5 possesses the fastest autofocus of any smartphone camera, taking just 0.3 seconds to center in on users' targets.

The Galaxy S5, which features a 5.1-inch HD screen, also comes with a longer-lasting battery. Samsung said users can get up to 21 hours of talk time from one charge. Users can also enable an "Ultra Power Saving Model" that shuts down unnecessary features and turns the display into black and white, extending the device's battery life.

**Spec showdown**

Samsung's new Galaxy S5 will be available in April and will compete with Apple's iPhone 5S.

**How the phones compare**

Galaxy S5	iPhone 5S
5.1 in. (13 cm)	4 in. (10.2 cm)
5.6 x 2.8 x 0.3 in. (14.2 x 7.2 x 0.8 cm)	4.9 x 2.3 x 0.29 in. (12.4 x 5.9 x 0.76 cm)
5.1 oz. (145 g)	4.0 oz. (112 g)
Android 4.4.2	iOS 7
16, 32 GB	16, 32, 64 GB
1920 x 1080 pixels 432 ppi	1136 x 640 pixels 326 ppi
16 megapixels, rear 2 megapixels, front	8 megapixels, rear 1.2 megapixels, front
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fingerprint sensor and heart rate monitor</li> <li>Dust-, water-resistant</li> <li>MicroSD card slot allows for stored media</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fingerprint sensor</li> <li>Siri, Apple's digital assistant; uses voice to send messages and other commands</li> </ul>

Source: Samsung, Apple Graphic: Melina Yingling © 2014 MCT

The new Galaxy flagship smartphone also comes with more fitness tracking features than previous Samsung devices, the company said. Among these is a built-in heart rate monitor.

Samsung also said the Galaxy S5 is equipped with IP67 dust and water resistance, making the device more durable than its predecessor. Samsung warned users from swimming with the

Galaxy S5, but the company said that users don't have to worry if the device gets wet.

The Samsung Galaxy S5 will go on sale in the U.S. in April along with the Gear 2 and Gear 2 Neo smartwatches and the Gear Fit, a fitness tracking device that Samsung also announced on Monday. Samsung did not say how much the Galaxy S5 will cost.

# Nation

## US steps against Russia unlikely to alter Ukraine

By PAUL RICHTER  
TRIBUNE WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON—President Barack Obama has a variety of ways he can make good on his threat to make Russia pay "costs" for its military intervention in Ukraine.

But it's not clear any of them will make a difference to Russian President Vladimir Putin, or whether they might simply underscore the United States' relatively weak hand in the unfolding Ukraine crisis.

The U.S. and its European allies can take steps to isolate Russia diplomatically, which would undermine Putin's claim that his country is again ascendant as a world leader. They can also take steps that would pinch the Russian elite, which relishes its access to Western Europe.

Some of the moves would sting. But none is likely to greatly change the behavior of Putin, experts say.

"Putin is prepared for this kind of international backlash," said Eugene Rumer of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, who was the U.S. national intelligence officer for Russia until December. "In his mind, this won't be paying too much of a price."

Obama sought to step up the pressure Saturday, telling Putin in a 90-minute phone call that he would cancel U.S. participation in a June meeting of the Group of 8 leading industrial nations in Sochi, Russia, unless Moscow stopped what he called its "breach of international law."



Obama

He threatened "greater political and economic isolation" of Russia, and said the United Nations would consider action on the issue.

U.S. officials are also threatening to rebuff Russia's expressions of interest in new trade deals and are likely to scratch a possible meeting between the two presidents discussed for sometime this year.

In addition, the administration and European allies could limit visas for travel by some members of the Russian elite, which would be uncomfortable. Many of the country's elite enjoy their travel, own homes in Western Europe and count on sending their children to European schools.

Some North Atlantic Treaty Organization members in Eastern Europe have asked to consult with others in the alliance, a step that usually leads to a strengthening of NATO forces in the region.

Russia won't like that. And the U.S. may announce troop deployments in the nearby countries, and perhaps naval deployments, to make a visible demonstration of their readiness.

But a senior Pentagon official said Saturday that there had been no request from the White House for military options for Ukraine and no change in the posture of U.S. forces in Europe.

Putin's action also probably means that the U.S. and allies will go ahead with their plans for a missile defense system in Eastern Europe, which has drawn angry denunciations from Moscow.

Obama, in his phone call with Putin, noted that U.S. officials were also consulting with countries that signed the Budapest Memorandum on Security Assurances. That 1994 treaty entitles Ukraine to seek help from countries, including the United States, when its security is threatened.

Some in Congress are already calling for economic sanctions on Russia. But such penalties could be ineffective, unless the administration is able to enlist many other countries to make them stick. And it's still not clear how far Europe is willing to support Washington in penalizing the Russians.

### ACROSS THE NATION

#### Police: Ohio boy, 8, fatally shot by brother

CINCINNATI (AP)—An 8-year-old Cincinnati boy was fatally shot in the chest Saturday while one of his brothers was playing with a loaded handgun that he thought was a BB gun, police said. Cincinnati police Lt. Don Luck told the Cincinnati Enquirer that three brothers were visiting their uncle in the city's Price Hill neighborhood when they found the loaded gun and one pulled the trigger, striking Sammy Lorenzo in the chest. The boy was taken to Cincinnati Children's Hospital and rushed into surgery, but later died. One of the brothers "kept telling the story of how it happened, over and over again," Luck said. "It's so sad." Luck said that no charges are expected against the children. He said it was too early to tell whether charges will be filed against any adults. An unidentified adult was in the house at the time, but wasn't in the room when the boy was shot, police said.

#### Conn. dad seeks custody after alleged ex hit plot

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP)—A divorced couple's bitter rift took a twisted turn when a Connecticut woman allegedly tried to hire a hit man to kill her ex-husband—and only turned more bizarre when she retained custody of their daughter. For more than a year they had battled over the rights to the 8-year-old girl—with the winning parent also getting control of what po-

lice called a \$50 million fund linked to the girl's custody—before Tiffany Stevens was arrested in July 2012, allegedly for offering a maintenance man \$5,000 to kill her ex-husband, Eric. Now, almost two years later, Eric Stevens says he doesn't know exactly where his daughter is, just that the woman who tried to have him killed still officially has custody. On Thursday, Eric Stevens filed a complaint with the Statewide Grievance Committee, which handles lawyer discipline cases, against the court-appointed guardian ad litem—or advocate—for his daughter in the custody case, alleging corruption and perjury.

#### After 13 dogs found dead in fire, NY man charged

MINEOLA, N.Y. (AP)—Thirteen pit bulls were found dead in a one-car garage that went up in flames and a New York man is facing 18 counts of felony and misdemeanor animal fighting charges. A spokesman for Nassau County prosecutors says Saturday that Anthony Reddick was a tenant in the Long Island home where investigators discovered dogs and dogfighting apparatus following the Friday afternoon fire. Spokesman Shams Tarek says the 53-year-old man fled the scene when the fire broke out but was arrested Saturday afternoon. He says investigators found the dead pit bulls and dog fighting equipment after executing a search warrant. He says three other pit bulls were found alive.



## Asia

# China blames separatists for knife attack; 33 dead

**KUNMING, China (AP)**—More than 10 assailants slashed scores of people with knives at a train station in southern China in what state media said Sunday was a terrorist assault by ethnic separatists from the far west. Twenty-nine slash victims and four attackers were killed and 143 people wounded.

Police fatally shot four of the assailants, captured one and were searching for the others following the attack late Saturday at the Kunming train station in Yunnan province, the official Xinhua News Agency said. State broadcaster CCTV said two of the attackers were women—one of the slain and the one who was captured and later brought to a hospital for treatment.

Witnesses described assailants dressed in black storming the train station and slashing people indiscriminately with large knives and machetes.

Student Qiao Yunao, 16, was waiting to catch a train at the station when people started crying out and running, and then saw a man cut another man's neck, drawing blood.

"I was freaking out, and ran to a fast food store, and many people were running in there to take refuge," she told The Associated Press via Sina Weibo, a Chinese microblog. "I saw two attackers, both men, one with a watermelon knife and the other with a fruit knife. They were running and chopping whoever they could."

The attackers' identities have not been confirmed, but evidence at the scene showed that it was "a terrorist attack carried out by Xinjiang separatist forces," Xinhua quoted the municipal government as saying.

Xinhua said that in addition to the four attackers killed, 29 civilians were confirmed dead and 143 wounded.

The far western region of Xinjiang is home to a simmering rebellion against Chinese rule by some members of the Muslim Uighur (pronounced WEE'-gur) population, and the government has responded with heavy-handed security.

Most attacks blamed on Uighur separatists take place in Xinjiang, where clashes between ethnic Uighurs and members of China's ethnic Han majority are frequent, but Saturday's assault happened more than 1,000 kilometers (620 miles) to the southeast in Yunnan, which has not had a history of such unrest.

However, a suicide car attack blamed on three ethnic Uighurs that killed five people including the attackers at Beijing's Tiananmen Gate last November raised alarms that militants could be changing tactics and aiming to strike at soft targets



The body of an assailant is inspected by police officers outside a railway station, after an attack by knife-wielding men left scores of people dead in Kunming, in southwestern China's Yunnan province, Saturday March 1, 2014.

elsewhere in China.

Sean Roberts, a cultural anthropologist at George Washington University who has studied Uighurs and China for two decades, said the Kunming violence would be a new kind of attack for ethnic Uighurs—premeditated and outside Xinjiang—but still rudimentary in weaponry.

"If it is true that it was carried out by Uighurs, it's much different than anything we've seen to date," Roberts said in a telephone interview.

But he added that it was still

unclear if there is any organized Uighur militant group and that attacks so far do not appear linked to any "global terrorist network because we're not seeing things like sophisticated explosives or essentially sophisticated tactics."

In an indication of how seriously authorities viewed the attack—one of China's deadliest in recent years—the country's top police official, Politburo member Meng Jianzhu, arrived in Kunming on Sunday and went straight to the hospital to visit the wounded, Xinhua reported.

## PH asks neighbors to join case vs China

**MANILA, Philippines (AP)**—The Philippines has called on Malaysia, Vietnam and other claimants to join its legal challenge to China's massive territorial claim in the South China Sea.

In a bold step, Filipino officials took their territorial disputes with China to international arbitration in January last year after Chinese government ships took control of a disputed shoal off the northwestern Philippines.

They asked the tribunal to declare China's claim to about 80 percent of the strategic waters and Beijing's seizure of eight South China Sea shoals and reefs illegal. China has ignored the legal challenge but the tribunal has proceeded and asked the Philippines to submit its legal arguments and evidence by March 30.

The Philippines chief lawyer, Solicitor-General Francis Jardeleza, said Malaysia, Vietnam and two other governments could either take part in the Philippine case or file their

own complaints against China. Smaller countries, he said, can only have a chance to peacefully defend their territories against the Asian superpower in a legal arena.

"Where can the weak go?" Jardeleza asked in a Manila forum on the territorial disputes.

"We are here to prove that from the point of view of the rule of law, all of the actions and all of the claims of China are ... invalid."

China, Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam have overlapping claims across the busy South China Sea. The disputes have periodically erupted into dangerous confrontations, sparking tensions and straining ties.

Law professor Raul Pangalangan told the forum that the Philippines wanted China to explain the limits and basis of its vast claims. China, Jardeleza said, could still change its mind and join the arbitration, which would take at least two years to conclude.

## World

# Russian troops take over Ukraine's Crimea region

**SIMFEROPOL, Ukraine (AP)**—Russian troops took over the strategic Crimean peninsula Saturday without firing a shot. The newly installed government in Kiev was powerless to react, and despite calls by U.S. President Barack Obama for Russia to pull back its forces, Western governments had few options to counter Russia's military moves.

Russian President Vladimir Putin sought and quickly got his parliament's approval to use its military to protect Russia's interests across Ukraine. But while sometimes-violent pro-Russian protests broke out Saturday in a number of Russian-speaking regions of eastern Ukraine, Moscow's immediate focus appeared to be Crimea.

Tensions increased when Ukraine's acting president, Oleksandr Turchynov, made a late night announcement that he had ordered the country's armed forces to be at full readiness because of the threat of "potential aggression."

Speaking live on Ukraini-

an TV, Turchynov said he had also ordered stepped up security at nuclear power plants, airports and other strategic infrastructure.

Ignoring President Barack Obama's warning Friday that "there will be costs" if Russia intervenes militarily, Putin sharply raised the stakes in the conflict over Ukraine's future evoking memories of Cold War brinkmanship.

After Russia's parliament approved Putin's motion, U.S. officials held a high-level meeting at the White House to review Russia's military moves in Ukraine. The White House said Obama spoke with Putin by telephone for 90 minutes and expressed his "deep concern" about "Russia's clear violation of Ukrainian sovereignty and territorial integrity."

The White House said Obama told Putin that the United States is calling on Russia "to de-escalate tensions by withdrawing its forces back to bases in Crimea and to refrain from any interference elsewhere in Ukraine."

A statement from the Kremlin said Putin emphasized to

Obama the existence of "real threats" to the life and health of Russian citizens and compatriots who are in Ukrainian territory. The statement indicated that Russia might send its troops not only to the Crimea but also to predominantly ethnic Russian regions of eastern Ukraine.

"Vladimir Putin emphasized that, in the case of a further spread in violence in eastern regions (of Ukraine) and Crimea, Russia maintains the right to protect its interests and the Russian-speaking population that lives there," the Kremlin statement said.

Obama told Putin that he would support sending international monitors to Ukraine to help protect ethnic Russians. He said the U.S. will suspend its participation in preparatory meetings for June's G-8 summit in Sochi, Russia, the site of the recently concluded Winter Olympics, warning that Russia's "continued violation of international law will lead to greater political and economic isolation."

**FIFTH YEAR ANNIVERSARY**

We, the family of the late

**† Verena Marie Tudela Cabrera**

Humbly invite all our relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the passing of our dearly beloved "†Verena Marie" unto eternal life, beginning March 03 through March 11, 2014.

**SCHEDULE OF MASSES:**

Monday, March 3rd, 6:00 pm	—	Santa Remedios Church, Tanapag
Tuesday, March 4th, 6:00 pm	—	San Roque Church
Wednesday, March 5th, 6:00 pm	—	Santa Remedios Church, Tanapag
Thursday, March 6th, 6:00 pm	—	San Roque Church
Friday, March 7th, 6:00 pm	—	Santa Remedios Church, Tanapag
Saturday, March 8th, 6:00 pm	—	Santa Remedios Church, Tanapag
Sunday, March 9th, 8:00 am	—	Santa Remedios Church, Tanapag
Monday, March 10th, 6:00 pm	—	Santa Remedios Church, Tanapag

On the final day, Tuesday, March 11, 2014 mass will be offered at 6:00 p.m. at San Roque Church followed by an appreciation dinner.

*Please join us in prayers.*

**Carmen T. Cabrera-Pangelinan**  
Children and Family



# Health & Fitness

## Teen helps scientists study her own rare disease

By LAURAN NEERGAARD  
AP MEDICAL WRITER

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—First the teenager survived a rare cancer. Then she wanted to study it, spurring a study that helped scientists find a weird gene flaw that might play a role in how the tumor strikes.

Age 18 is pretty young to be listed as an author of a study in the prestigious journal *Science*. But the industrious high school student's efforts are bringing new attention to this mysterious disease.

"It's crazy that I've been able to do this," said Elana Simon of New York City, describing her idea to study the extremely rare form of liver cancer that mostly hits adolescents and young adults.

Making that idea work required a lot of help from real scientists: Her father, who runs a cellular biophysics lab at the Rockefeller University; her surgeon at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center; and gene specialists at the New York Genome Center. A second survivor of this cancer, who the journal said didn't want to be identified, also co-authored the study.

Together, the team reported

Thursday that they uncovered an oddity: A break in genetic material that left the "head" of one gene fused to the "body" of another. That results in an abnormal protein that forms inside the tumors but not in normal liver tissue, suggesting it might fuel cancer growth, the researchers wrote. They've found the evidence in all 15 of the tumors tested so far.

It's a small study, and more research is needed to see what this gene flaw really does, cautioned Dr. Sanford Simon, the teen's father and the study's senior author.

But the teen-spurred project has grown into work to get more patients involved in scientific research. Scientists at the National Institutes of Health are advising the Simons on how to set up a patient registry, and NIH's Office of Rare Diseases Research has posted on its web site a YouTube video in which Elana Simon and a fellow survivor explain why to get involved.

"Fibrolamellar Hepatocellular Carcinoma. Not easy to pronounce. Not easily understood," it says.

Simon was diagnosed at age



This handout photo taken Tuesday, Feb. 25, 2014, provided by The Rockefeller University, shows Elana Simon, 18, of New York, pictured in a laboratory at The Rockefeller University in New York.

12. Surgery is the only effective treatment, and her tumor was caught in time that it worked. But there are few options if the cancer spreads, and Simon knows other patients who weren't so lucky.

A high school internship during her sophomore year let Simon use her computer science skills to help researchers sort data on genetic mutations in

a laboratory studying another type of cancer.

Simon wondered, why not try the same approach with the liver

cancer she'd survived?

The hurdle: Finding enough tumors to test. Only about 200 people a year worldwide are

## FDA eases concern about certain diabetes drugs

By MARILYNN MARCHIONE  
AP CHIEF MEDICAL WRITER

People who take Januvia, Byetta or certain other widely prescribed medicines for diabetes can breathe a little easier—U.S. and European regulators have found no compelling evidence of a link between these drugs and pancreas problems or pancreatic cancer.

The federal Food and Drug Administration and its European counterpart started reviews last year of these medicines, which came on the market less than a decade ago, after a study suggested a safety concern.

More than 25 million Americans and 33 million people in Europe have Type 2 diabetes, which impairs production or use

of insulin to break down food into energy. That causes blood sugar to rise, putting them at risk of heart and other problems.

The drugs in question, called GLP-1 medicines, help spur insulin production after meals. Nine are approved in Europe and seven in the U.S., including include Merck's Januvia and Janumet, Novo Nordisk's Victoza and Bristol-Myers Squibb's Byetta and Bydureon.

The labels for Byetta, Januvia and Janumet already have information about the possibility of pancreatic inflammation. A study of insurance records had suggested GLP-1 drugs could double this risk.

In July, the European Medicines Agency said its review

## Huge study links older dads with kids' psych woes

**CHICAGO (AP)**—Older fathers may face higher risks than previously thought for having children with psychiatric problems, including bipolar disorder, autism and attention deficits, according to the largest study to examine the potential links.

American and Swedish researchers examined data on more than 2.6 million Swedes born from 1973-2001. Men who fathered kids after age 24 faced increasing odds for having children with psychiatric problems or academic difficulties, with the greatest risks seen at age 45 and older.

The results add to evidence challenging the notion that men's sperm are timeless, but this kind of research isn't proof. And by no means are children of older dads certain to have problems. Absolute risks were small—less than 1 percent of kids of older dads had autism, attention deficit-hyperactivity disorder

or bipolar disorder; and less than 4 percent had schizophrenia or fell victim to substance abuse or attempted suicide.

Academic difficulties were more common but still didn't affect most kids of older dads.

Even so, the magnitude of increased risks faced by kids born to dads aged 45 and older versus dads aged 20 to 24 was surprising, said lead author Brian D'Onofrio, an associate professor in the psychological and brain sciences department at Indiana University.

Compared with kids of the youngest dads, those fathered by men at age 45 and older faced risks almost 25 times greater for bipolar disorder; 13 times greater for ADHD; more than three times greater for autism; almost three times greater for suicide attempts; and about two times greater for schizophrenia and substance abuse.

The study was published

diagnosed, according to the Fibrolamellar Cancer Foundation, which helped fund the new study. There was no registry that kept tissue samples after surgery.

But Simon's pediatric cancer surgeon, Sloan-Kettering's Dr. Michael LaQuaglia, agreed to help, and Simon spread the word to patient groups. Finally, samples trickled in, and Sanford Simon said his daughter was back on the computer helping to analyze what was different in the tumor cells.

At the collaborating New York Genome Center, which genetically mapped the samples, co-author Nicolas Robine said a program called FusionCatcher ultimately zeroed in on the weird mutation.

Sanford Simon said other researchers then conducted laboratory experiments to show the abnormal protein really is active inside tumor cells.

had found no new evidence of pancreas problems.

On Wednesday, the New England Journal of Medicine published a report from scientists in Europe and at the FDA saying reviews of animal and human studies, plus new studies commissioned to look at this risk, had found no treatment-related adverse effects on the pancreas.

Although the review "provides reassurance," the agencies "have not reached a final conclusion" about whether the drugs can cause pancreas problems and will "continue to investigate this safety signal," the authors write.

Meanwhile, the drugs' labels appear adequate, the agencies conclude.

online Wednesday in *JAMA Psychiatry*.

Molecular geneticist Simon Gregory, an associate professor at Duke University, called the new study impressive because of its size and depth—the authors had access to a registry of most births in Sweden over more than 20 years, along with reams of data on psychiatric treatment, education and social welfare.

Still, Gregory said, "There's no reason to ring the alarm bells that older men shouldn't have kids" unless the results are replicated in additional research and molecular evidence is found.

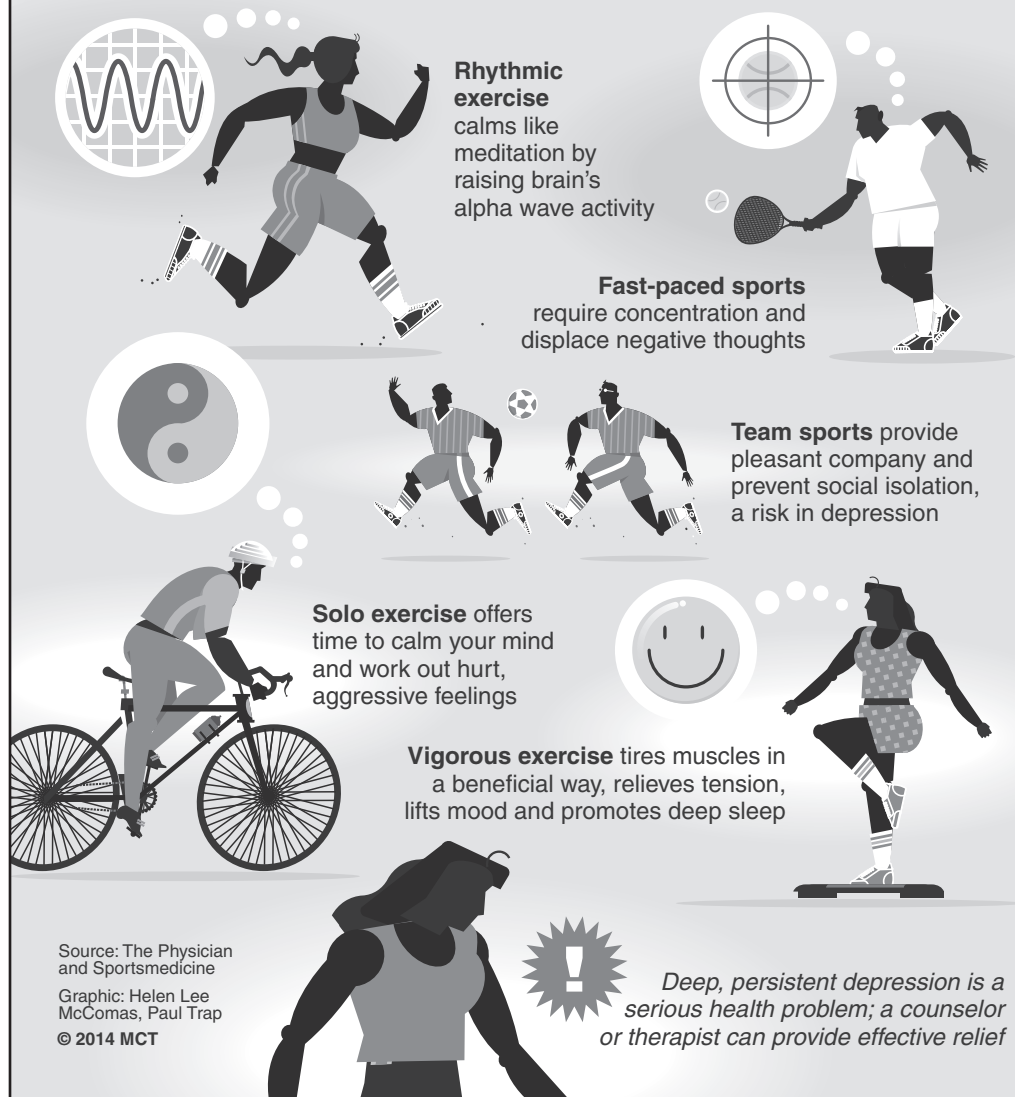
D'Onofrio said the researchers took into account several factors that could have influenced the results, including the mothers' age at conception, parents' education and history of psychiatric problems, and siblings' health, and still found strong risks linked with older men.

### Personal Trainer

## Exercise can lift the blues

Getting active helps relieve the sleeplessness, anxiety and feelings of being overwhelmed that stress and moderate depression cause.

### How different kinds of physical activity help





# Life & Style

## Razzies pick Will and Jaden Smith as worst actors

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Will and Jaden Smith have something they can bond over. They were both awarded Razzies for their performances in “After Earth.”

Jaden was selected as worst actor for his starring role in the sci-fi flop about a father and son stranded on an untamed earth, while the elder Smith was chosen as worst supporting actor at Saturday’s Golden Raspberry Awards, which lampoons Hollywood’s awards season on the eve of the Oscars. The duo was also selected as the worst screen combo by online Razzies voters.

Razzies organizer John Wilson noted the pair was “stranded on Planet Nepotism.”

“After Earth,” which was directed by M. Night Shyamalan, tied with “Movie 43” for the most prizes with three awards. The raunchy comedy anthology featuring the likes of Halle Berry, Richard Gere, Kate Winslet and Naomi Watts earned Razzies for worst picture, screenplay and director. Apparently, it took a village to craft something so loathed. The Razzies noted that

“Movie 43” is credited with 13 directors and 19 screenwriters.

Tyler Perry also didn’t receive any good tidings from the Razzies. Perry—as feisty alter-ego Madea—was picked as worst actress for “A Madea Christmas,” while Kim Kardashian was designated worst supporting actress for her role in the drama “Tyler Perry’s Temp-tation.”

Despite being the year’s biggest box-office bomb, “The Lone Ranger” lassoed just one prize: worst remake, rip-off or sequel.

Uncharacteristically, Adam Sandler went home empty handed at this year’s Razzies. Sandler’s “Grown-Ups 2” originally led the hate-fest with eight nominations, including worst picture and actor for Sandler, but the comedy sequel wasn’t awarded a single trophy. Sandler previously made Razzie history in 2011 by winning both the worst actor and actress prizes for his brother-sister cross-dressing comedy “Jack & Jill.”

The winners of the 34th annu-



In this May 7, 2013 file photo, U.S. actor Will Smith and his son Jaden pose for the media after press conference for their film “After Earth” in Seoul, South Korea.

al Razzies were announced Saturday night at a conference center a few blocks away from the

Dolby Theater, where the 86th annual Academy Awards will be presented Sunday evening.

## Pharrell, U2, Idina Menzel rock Oscar rehearsals

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Having the nation’s No. 1 song does not exempt an artist from Oscar rehearsals.

Pharrell Williams ran through his catchy hit “Happy” more than half a dozen times Friday in preparation for the Oscar telecast. He even shared the spotlight with a spate of stars: Jamie Foxx, Brad Pitt and Kate Hudson showed up to rehearse while he was on stage.

All I care about is the fun,” Williams said to Hudson, who boogied in the audience as he practiced his dance-heavy number. A choir of high-school students and 20 professional dancers accompany his colorful performance.

Also rehearsing Friday: Broadway star Idina Menzel, who’s set to sing “Let It Go” from animated film nominee “Frozen”; U2, which is nominat-

ed for its song from the Mandela movie, “Ordinary Love”; and rocker Karen O, who is nominated for “The Moon Song” from best-picture nominee “Her.”

Menzel was awed by the technology that allowed the Oscar orchestra, playing off-site at the Capitol Records building, to

## ‘12 Years a Slave’ rolls at Spirit Awards

**SANTA MONICA, Calif. (AP)**—“12 Years a Slave” rolled at the Spirit Awards, winning five awards including best feature at the annual independent film celebration.

On the eve of the Academy Awards, the slavery tale won awards for director Steve McQueen, actress Lupita Nyong’o, screenwriter John Ridley and cinematographer Sean Bobbitt. In a more laid-back, beachside ceremony in Santa Monica, just west of Los Angeles, “12 Years a Slave” was applauded as the clear favorite of the indie circuit.

The Spirit Awards could end up being—more than ever before—a dress rehearsal to Sunday’s Academy Awards. “12 Years a Slave” is considered, albeit extremely narrowly, the favorite for best picture over the space spectacle “Gravity” and the 1970s con-artist “American Hustle.” (Neither film was eligible at the Spirits, which honor films made for \$20 million or less.)

The acting winners, too, may line up. All of the Oscar favorites won Saturday at the Spirits, including best actor for Matthew McConaughey in “Dallas Buyers Club” and Cate Blanchett in “Blue Jasmine.” McConaughey’s co-star, Jared

coordinate with her live at the Dolby Theatre.

“Hi, Bill, can you hear me?” she said into the microphone at conductor William Ross, whom she could see on a monitor from inside the theater. “I’m trying to get that telepathic vibe with you because I’m alone up here and this is my first time (on the Oscars).”

Leto, won best male supporting performance.

Leto gave what might be the acceptance speech to end all acceptance speeches, rattling off an absurd list of thank yous to not just those with “Dallas Buyers Club,” but Hermann Hesse, Wayne Gretzky, home-made burritos, “the seven billion people on the planet” and many more. The actor-rocker added, with emphasis, “all the women I’ve been with and all the women who think they’ve been with me.”

For many, the Spirit Awards conclude months of award-season events, and they provide a chance to exhale before the Oscars. McConaughey, Blanchett, Leto and Nyong’o have racked up a slew of awards, often triumphing over the same colleagues.

“What am I going to say that I haven’t already said?” Blanchett remarked in her acceptance speech. On her way into the luncheon, the actress also repeated her view of the renewed scandal surrounding “Blue Jasmine” director Woody Allen and Dylan Farrow’s claims he sexually assaulted her as a child: “It’s a family issue, and I hope they can resolve it as a family.”

## Couple’s long-ago abortion casts shadow over ex-wife

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



*Dear Abby*

**DEAR ABBY:** Before my husband and I were married, I became pregnant with his baby. We decided together that we weren’t ready for the responsibility and made the mutual decision to end the pregnancy early in the first trimester. We did marry eventually and had a baby girl a few years ago who is now in college.

My ex and I divorced many years ago because of his many affairs, including one with his best friend’s wife. I have come to believe that my ex told our daughter about our decision out of spite because I told her about the affairs when she was old enough to understand since she may have a half-sister.

Should I ask my daughter about this or let it go? It was a very private decision, and I think he is a creep for hurting her by telling her.

FURIOUS IN ILLINOIS

**DEAR FURIOUS:** Why do you think your ex spilled the beans to your daughter? Has she been behaving differently toward you? Why do you think she “may” have a half-sister? Are you sure it isn’t more than one—or a brother or two? The fact that you aborted a child before your daughter’s birth has nothing to do with her. If you think there is something festering between you and your daughter, my advice is to clear the air before it gets worse.

■■■

**DEAR ABBY:** My boyfriend and I have been together since August 2012 and have lived together since last summer. He is perfect in every way. He wakes me every morning with a smile and a kiss and pours me a cup of tea. He never goes anywhere without letting me know he thinks I’m beautiful and telling me how much he loves me.

He gets home before I do most nights, has a glass of wine and a hot bath waiting for me, and cooks dinner while I’m in the tub. He’s amazing! The only problem is, I was with sooo many of the wrong men for years, I have forgotten how to spoil a man in return.

I want him to know how much I appreciate and love him, but I don’t know how. I just want him to know he’s the one I want to sit on the porch with one day, watching our grandchildren play. I don’t want to lose him because he thinks I don’t appreciate all he does. Please help.

KNOWS A GOOD THING IN NEW JERSEY

**DEAR KNOWS:** When your boyfriend does something for you, thank him for it. Tell him you love him and give him affection in abundance. Express how fortunate you feel to have him in your life. Look for things you can do that will make his life easier, and put forth an effort to reciprocate the many thoughtful things he does for you. Every man is different, but this would be a good start in getting your message across.

■■■

**DEAR ABBY:** Is it too late for me to go back to school and get a degree and pursue a career I would enjoy? I’m 53, married and the mother of two children, 19 and 23. I didn’t finish college, and I don’t know what to do with my life. The only jobs I have ever had were as a retail salesperson.

With one child just out of college, I am unsure if I could even afford to continue my education. Where would I go to find answers about returning to school at my age, choosing a major and finding the money to pay for it? Any advice would be appreciated.

TOO OLD 4 NEW TRICKS?

**DEAR TOO OLD?:** Contact the nearest university or college and ask if it offers career counseling and aptitude testing to determine what you would need to complete your education and find a career you’d be suited for. Many schools offer this service. As to your being too late to do this at 53—it’s never too late. People in their 90s have earned degrees and been enriched by it, and so can you.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



In this June 2, 2013 file photo, Gwen Stefani and Gavin Rossdale arrive at Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation’s 24th Annual “A Time for Heroes” event in Los Angeles.

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Gwen Stefani and Gavin Rossdale’s brood of boys has gotten bigger.

A representative for Rossdale has confirmed that the musicians on Friday welcomed their third son, Apollo Bowie Flynn Rossdale.

Rossdale tweeted news of the birth Saturday and said Bowie and Flynn were their mothers’ maiden names.

Apollo’s brothers are 5-year-

old Zuma and 7-year-old Kingston.

The 48-year-old Rossdale is a musician best known as the lead singer of the rock band Bush.

The 44-year-old Stefani is the lead vocalist of the band No Doubt, and has released two hit solo albums. She’s also a fashion designer.

The couple met in the mid-90’s and were married in 2002.



Pastimes

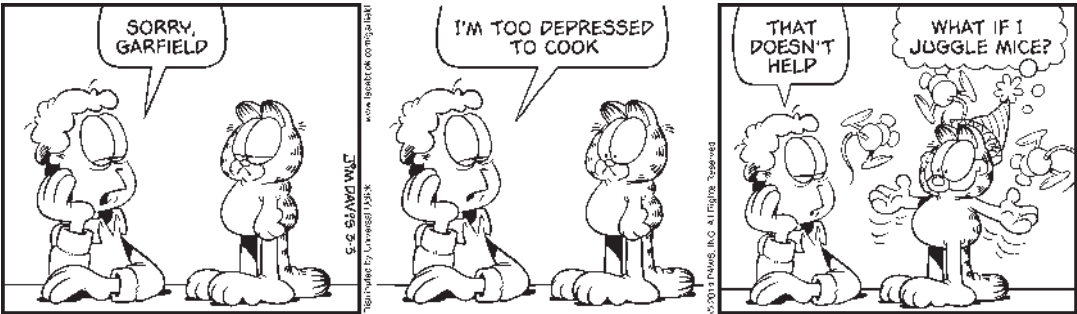
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



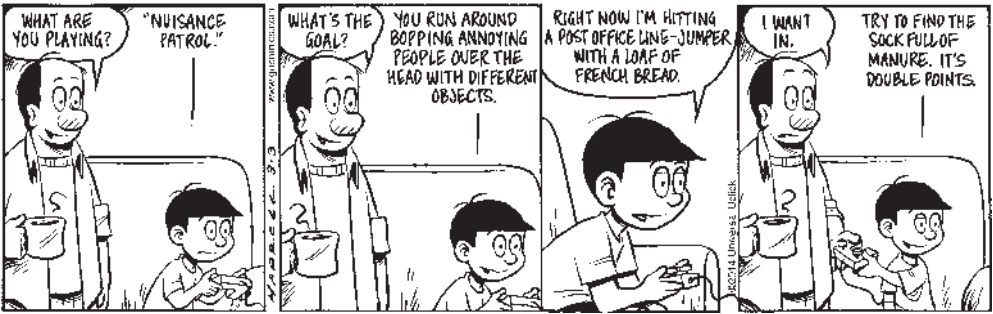
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Barn neighbor, often  
5 Journal  
8 Dalma-tian detail  
12 LummoX  
13 Boxing legend  
14 Jason's ship  
15 Formerly  
16 Change the essence of  
18 Ambush  
20 Enter-tains  
21 Oil job  
23 Apr. addressee  
24 Signifying  
28 Cleo-patra's river  
31 Khan title  
32 Se-quence  
34 Arctic diving bird  
35 Reply to the Little Red Hen  
37 Condemn publicly

**DOWN**

1 At a snail's pace  
11 "Piggies"  
17 Parisian pal  
19 Car  
22 Finished  
24 Author  
25 Swelled head  
26 Country-wide  
27 Mensa types  
29 Robitaille of hockey fame  
30 — out a living  
33 Reddish horse  
36 Put in writing  
38 Together-ness  
40 Tasseled hat  
42 Dutch cheese  
43 Nevada city  
44 Fashion line?  
46 Hunter's garb, for short  
47 Ms. Brocko-vich  
48 Destiny  
50 Cagers' org.

**Solution time: 27 mins.**

Friday's answer 3-3

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Jessica Biel, 32; Julie Bowen, 44; Tone Loc, 48; Jackie Joyner-Kersey, 52.

**Happy Birthday:** Seize the moment. Don't let any opportunity that comes your way slip past you. Pick up the pace and go after your dreams with passion, discipline and the mindset of a winner who will not stop until victory has been achieved. Re-evaluate your personal position and consider your options. A serious attitude regarding love will enhance your personal life. Your numbers are 5, 11, 18, 20, 27, 36, 48.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Don't jump into something without doing your due diligence. The decision you make based on your findings will keep you from making a costly mistake. Getting angry will be a waste of valuable time. Take care of business and don't share personal secrets. \*\*\*

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Concentrate on learning and gathering experience and opportunities will surface. Don't be too quick to share with someone who is likely to use the information against you in a competitive situation. Personal and professional partnerships are highlighted. \*\*\*

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** A change of heart will lead you in a much better direction. Offering assistance to someone inspired to take the same path will enable you to accomplish much more as a team. Get any agreement in writing to avoid problems. \*\*\*\*

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Do something creative that captures your imagination. Too much idle time will lead to

boredom and expenditures that you cannot afford. Check your moodiness before you blame someone else for your dissatisfaction. Make peace, not war. \*\*

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** You are heading upward and must not let anything or anyone stand in your way. Make calls that can change your life or your direction. A move or the way you live will improve if you embrace change. Expanded interests equal greater possibilities. \*\*\*\*\*

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Keep a tight lid on the way you feel, especially with regard to contracts, settlements and money matters. Listen to what's being said. Collect information that is pertinent to a decision or response you will be expected to make. \*\*\*

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Test the waters. Make your choices clear, and you will tempt someone you least expect to see things your way. Offer positive alternatives and use your intellect and ability to find solutions. Lead the way, and you will attract allies. \*\*\*

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Make whatever job you do speak for your integrity, work ethic and ability to take whatever you are given and turn it into a masterpiece. Once you put your project behind you, plan a little downtime with friends or family. \*\*\*

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Take a step in the right direction. Make a couple of personal improvements and you will raise your self-esteem and invite others to compliment you on your progress. Social events should be attended and appear to be en-

EUGENIA LAST  
THE LAST WORD  
IN ASTROLOGY

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couraging romantically. \*\*\*\*\*

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Don't expect everyone to agree with you. Be prepared to take the bad with the good. Have your answers and suggestions ready. Don't make changes that will upset your personal or emotional situation. Walk away from negative influences. \*\*

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Take the role of the person in your group who gets things done. Wheel and deal and make plans that are geared toward moneymaking endeavors. Do your best to advance by making positive changes to the way you earn your living. \*\*\*\*

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Don't let confusion set in. Help others without making a cash donation. Greater focus should be put on ways to develop your creative dreams. Join groups that share similar interests. Love is on the rise, but you must avoid secret affairs. \*\*\*

**Birthday Baby:** You embrace challenges and look for adventure. You are a doer.

Eugenia's website—[eugenialast.com](http://eugenialast.com), Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on [twitter](https://twitter.com/eugenialast)/[facebook](https://facebook.com/eugenialast)/[linkedin](https://linkedin.com/company/eugenialast).

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

		1				5				
8	9	5				4			1	
	4		9	2						
			6		8			9	5	
		7					6			
4	8			6		3				
				9	7		8			
	5		3			7	4	9		
		2				6				

Difficulty Level ★ 3/03

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's SUDOKU Answer

7	2	8	4	1	3	5	6	9
5	9	3	7	2	6	1	8	4
1	6	4	9	5	8	7	3	2
9	1	5	3	6	4	8	2	7
6	4	7	2	8	9	3	1	5
8	3	2	5	7	1	9	4	6
2	7	1	8	4	5	6	9	3
3	5	6	1	9	2	4	7	8
4	8	9	6	3	7	2	5	1

Difficulty Level \*\*\*\* 3/03

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

DEER CANS Solution: 7 letters

E	Y	C	S	E	S	A	C	B	R	E	I	D	T	S
S	T	R	I	S	T	D	O	P	E	N	I	N	G	E
N	R	S	E	N	E	F	M	U	N	I	M	U	L	A
A	A	R	A	G	C	S	I	I	C	R	U	S	H	L
C	P	G	A	T	R	I	R	G	U	L	P	O	T	E
C	O	L	O	R	S	U	P	X	P	U	L	L	R	E
R	O	V	A	L	F	E	B	E	Z	I	S	R	A	T
S	E	P	A	H	S	P	R	E	D	A	E	T	U	S
E	G	D	R	I	N	K	U	A	O	E	A	O	Q	P
L	A	B	E	L	R	C	Y	B	H	B	P	D	C	O
C	R	K	U	E	H	S	C	S	S	A	L	G	T	
Y	E	E	E	B	C	E	V	E	N	T	S	U	E	
C	V	G	R	N	R	E	N	E	P	O	U	R	M	N
E	E	A	U	V	I	N	T	A	G	E	C	N	U	O
R	B	L	E	N	N	U	F	R	I	E	N	D	S	C

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Aged, Aluminum, Barbecue, Beverage, Breidts, Burger, Cans, Cases, Cheer, Colors, Cone Top, Crush, Drink, Events, Flavor, Friends, Funnel, Gift, Glass, Gulp, Holiday, Krueger, Label, Lager, Lunch, Mug, Observe, Old, Opener, Opening, Ounce, Party, Picnic, Pour, Press, Primo, Pull, Quart, Recycle, Seal, Shapes, Share, Size, Slogan, Spout, Steel, Tabs, Taste, Vintage  
Last Friday's Answer: Freedom  
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**STUMPED?** For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

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- **WAITRESS**
- **DANCERS**

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**JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

**(4) ABLE BODIED SEAMAN**  
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Must be a high school graduate with a minimum of 2 years' experience as Able Bodied Seaman with a knowledge on how to stand watch to look for obstructions in path of a vessel, measure water depth, turn wheel on bridge, or use emergency equipment as directed by captain, shipmate, or pilot. Break out, rig, overhaul, and store cargo-handling gear, stationary rigging, and running gear. Perform a variety of maintenance tasks to preserve the painted surface of the ship and to maintain line and ship equipment.

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**IMMEDIATE HIRING**

**SUPERVISOR**

- Minimum of 2 years supervisory work experience in retail industry
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- Must be well organized, reliable, self-starter and result oriented
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Small 1-BR, 1-BTH. Unit approximately 284 sq.ft. **\$250/month.**  
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(03) CONSTRUCTION MANAGER  
Rate: \$2,100.00 to \$2,650.00 per month  
Must be a college graduate or with a minimum of 5 years experience as Construction Manager. With knowledge on how to plan, direct, or coordinate, with subordinate supervisory personnel, activities concerning the construction and maintenance of structures, facilities, and systems. Participate in the conceptual development of a construction project and oversee its organization, scheduling, budgeting and implementation. Includes managers in specialized construction fields, such as carpentry or plumbing.

(35) CARPENTER  
Rate: \$5.60 to \$7.50/hour  
Must be a high school graduate with a minimum of 5 years experience as a Carpenter. Knowledgeable on how to construct, erect, install, or repair structures and fixtures made of wood, such as concrete forms; building frameworks, including partitions, joists, studding, and rafters; and wood stairways, window and door frames, and hardwood floors. Must be able to work flexible hours.

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Rate: \$5.60 to \$6.50/hour  
Must be a high school graduate or with a minimum of 2 years experienced as a Sheet Metal Worker. With knowledge how to install prefabricated sheet metal ducts used for heating, air conditioning, or other purposes. Must be able to work flexible hours.

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Rate: \$5.60 to \$6.50/hour  
Must be a high school graduate with a minimum of 5 years experience as an Electrician. With knowledge on how to install, maintain, and repair electrical wiring, equipment, and fixtures. Ensure that work is in accordance with relevant codes. May install or service street lights, intercom systems, or electrical control systems. Must be able to work flexible hours.

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Must be a high school graduate with a minimum of 5 years experience as a plumber with knowledge to assemble, install alter and repair pipelines or pipe systems that carry water, steam, air or other liquids or gases. May install heating and cooling equipment and mechanical control system. Includes sprinkler fitters assemble

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Must be a college graduate with minimum of 5 years experience as a Civil Engineering Technician plumber with knowledge how to apply theory and principles of civil engineering in planning, designing and overseeing construction and maintenance of structures and facilities under the directions of engineering staff or physical scientists.

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Must be able to diagnose and undertake electrical repairs on a wide variety of vehicles, heavy equipments and plant. Must be knowledgeable on electric motors, alternator, starter motor rewinding. Can perform his duties and responsibilities with less supervision. At least 5 years work of experience on the related field..

(02) DIESEL FUEL INJECTION PUMP TECHNICIAN  
Rate: \$5.60 - \$6.75/hour  
Must be able to diagnose, service, repair and maintenance of fuel injection systems. Knowledgeable on the repair of diesel fuel injection components including pumps, injectors and turbochargers. At least 5 years of work experience on the related field.

All positions will close on March 07, 2014. Interested applicants may apply at GPPC, INC. office located at As Perdido, Saipan. A copy of police clearance must be attached to the application. Incomplete application will NOT be accepted. Skills, testing maybe required.

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# LeBron wears new mask, helps Heat beat Magic



**MIAMI (AP)**—LeBron James caught an alley-oop flip from Dwyane Wade on a fast break, threw down a dunk and then headed up court with his arms spread like some superhero.

James can look the part, whether he's wearing a clear mask or a black one.

Switching to a clear protective cover at the NBA's request, James had 20 points, nine rebounds and seven assists Saturday to help the Miami Heat earn their seventh consecutive victory by beating the Orlando Magic 112-98.

James dispensed with the black mask he wore Thursday when playing for the first time since he broke his nose.

"He was a clear-mask guy tonight," teammate Chris Bosh said. "He was just a regular dude, a regular citizen of Gotham."

Wade scored 24 points and Bosh 20 for the Heat, who shot 58 percent. Eleven players scored for the Heat, and their bench totaled 39 points.

James said league officials wanted him to wear something that would allow opponents to see his face. The newer mask seemed to bother James more than the black one did, and he frequently took it off when the clock was stopped.

"It's not comfortable," he said. "Having something on your face isn't comfortable, but it is what it is."

## Clipper 108, Pelicans 76

In Los Angeles, Chris Paul had 21 points and eight assists, Blake Griffin added 20 points before both All-Stars sat out the fourth quarter of Los Angeles' rout of New Orleans.

Nine-year veteran Danny Granger did not make his debut with the Clippers because of a technicality on the team's active list.

Tyreke Evans had 22 points and nine rebounds for New Orleans. But Anthony Davis picked up three fouls in his first 7 minutes on the court and finished with eight points three nights after spraining his left shoulder in a loss against Dallas.

## Rockets 118, Pistons 110

In Houston, Terrence Jones had 22 points and 10 rebounds, and Houston opened a big early lead and beat Detroit for its third win in four games.

Jones finished 10 of 15 from the floor as Houston shot 50 percent for the game, including 61 percent in the first half. Houston scored 41 points in the first quarter and finished 11 of 33 from behind the arc.

James Harden added 20 points and 12 assists, Patrick Beverley had 19 points and Dwight Howard chipped in 17 points and eight rebounds.

Rodney Stuckey had 23

points on 10-of-17 shooting off the bench, and Josh Smith added 21 points for the Pistons, who dropped their fourth straight and seventh in eight games.

## Pacers 102, Celtics 97

In Boston, Paul George scored 10 of Indiana's last 12 points and the Pacers beat Boston two days after beating another of the NBA's worst teams.

The team with the best record in the NBA had trouble with the Celtics, who have the fourth-worst record in the East. On Thursday night, the Pacers won 101-96 over the Milwaukee Bucks, who have the league's worst record.

George led the Pacers with 25 points, Evan Turner added 17 and Lance Stephenson scored 15. Indiana won its fourth straight game and eighth in its last 11.

Jeff Green had 27 points and Kris Humphries scored 18 as the Celtics lost for the sixth time in seven games.

## Nets 107, Bucks 98

In Milwaukee, Marcus Thornton scored 12 of his 25 points in the fourth quarter to lead Brooklyn over Milwaukee and within a game of .500.

Brooklyn's Kevin Garnett missed the game with back spasms but wasn't needed as the Nets never trailed in the second half against the NBA's worst team.

Thornton, playing in his third game for Brooklyn since being obtained in a Feb. 19 trade with Sacramento, came off the bench to make 8 of 13 from the field to help the Nets finish their seven-game road trip 4-3. A win over Chicago at home on Monday and the Nets (28-29) will get back to .500 for the first time since they were 2-2 on Nov. 5.

Andray Blatche had 19 points and 13 rebounds for Brooklyn, including eight points and 10 rebounds in the fourth quarter.

Khris Middleton and Ramon Sessions scored 16 points apiece for Milwaukee.

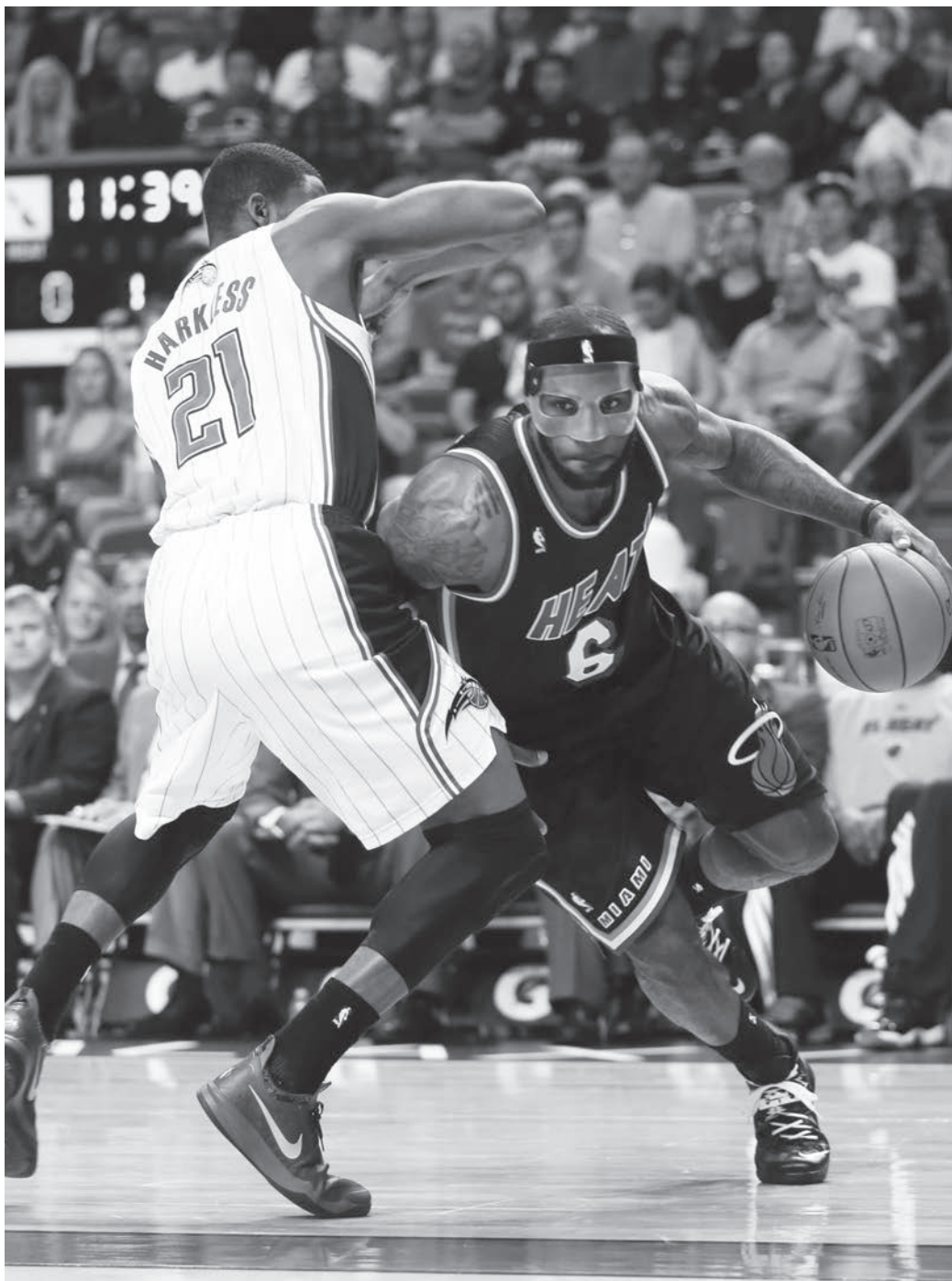
## Grizzlies 110, Cavaliers 96

In Memphis, Zach Randolph had 23 points and 14 rebounds, and Memphis used a big second half to defeat Cleveland.

Randolph had 17 points in the second half to help Memphis outscore Cleveland 56-31 and rally from an early 15-point deficit to win its fifth straight at home. Mike Conley and Marc Gasol scored 22 each for the Grizzlies. Conley added seven assists and Gasol had six.

Courtney Lee finished with 19 points and Tony Allen had 16 on 7-of-10 shooting.

Kyrie Irving led the Cavaliers with 28 points on 11-of-19 shooting, while Tristan



Miami Heat small forward LeBron James (6) drives around Orlando Magic small forward Maurice Harkless (21) during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Miami, Saturday, March 1, 2014.

## 76ers retire Iverson's No. 3 jersey

**PHILADELPHIA (AP)**—Allen Iverson cupped his hand to his left ear and asked to hear his favorite tune one more time.

With that command, 20,000 roaring Philadelphia 76ers fans gave AI the standing ovation he earned by stamping himself as one of the franchise's all-time greats.

Iverson, emotional as he thanked former teammates and friends, had his No. 3 retired at halftime of Saturday's game against Washington.

High above the Wells Fargo Center court, Iverson's banner slipped between Maurice Cheeks' No. 10 and Charles Barkley's No. 34.

"They all wanted me to talk about how much y'all loved me," Iverson said, "but trust me, the feeling was mutual."

Iverson officially retired in October after last playing in 2010. He won four scoring titles for the Sixers and was the 2001 MVP when he led them to the NBA Finals. He never won a championship, the lone omission in a career that is destined for the Hall of Fame.

The Sixers may as well

have turned the arena into an AI museum. Four banners greeted fans at the main concourse entrance, and photos of him were plastered all around the arena. The merchandise stands sold Iverson jerseys for \$130, and lower level tickets were going for as much for \$1,280 on StubHub about an hour before the 7:30 p.m. tipoff.

The fans loved him, and he blew them kisses after the No. 3 was raised to show how much he loved them back.

"I am Philly," Iverson said. "It's always going to be that way."

Iverson's return injected a rare dose of excitement into a franchise playing some of the worst basketball in the league. The Sixers, in full-blown rebuilding mode, had lost 12 straight entering Saturday's game.

The losing didn't matter much Saturday, just the memories.

The Sixers wore special "Iverson Forever" patches on their jerseys and Iverson's 3 on their pregame warmup shirts.

"It's a great example of how this city responds to somebody that they clearly think the world

of and brought such exciting times to the city of Philadelphia," Sixers coach Brett Brown said.

The Sixers' retirement gift was a boat named in honor of his nickname, "The Answer."

"It feels good," Iverson said after the ceremony, "but some part of my heart hurts because I know it's over."

Iverson joined Cheeks, Barkley, Wilt Chamberlain and Julius Erving among the eight retired numbers in franchise history. Erving attended the ceremony. Moses Malone, Dikembe Mutombo, Theo Ratliff, Gary Payton and former team president Pat Croce also were at the celebration.

Former coach Larry Brown, who both clashed with and loved Iverson over their tenure, sent a videotaped message.

"I just want to tell you, and I say this fondly: God put me there to coach you," Brown said.

Iverson said Brown was the player who molded him into one of the NBA's best.

Thompson was 8 of 10 for 18 points. Spencer Hawes had 13 points and Luol Deng 11.

## Trail Blazers 102, Nuggets 96

In Portland, Robin Lopez scored 18 points, LaMarcus Aldridge returned from an injury to add 16, and Portland beat Denver to sweep the series for the first time in 15 years.

Nicolas Batum had a career-high 16 rebounds for Portland, which has won its last five games.

Kenneth Faried, Randy Foye and Evan Fournier scored 16 points apiece, but Denver lost its fifth straight. Faried took a hard fall with less than two minutes left and appeared to injure his right knee, but finished out the game.

Portland won all four meetings, its first sweep of the series since the 1999 season, when the Blazers won all three games against the Nuggets.

## Timberwolves 108, Kings 97

In Sacramento, Kevin Martin scored 26 points, Kevin Love had 22 and Minnesota reached .500 with its win over Sacramento.

It was the second straight win and fifth in six games for the Timberwolves (29-29).

Minnesota never trailed after opening the third quarter with nine straight points.

Love added 10 rebounds and seven assists, and Nikola Pekovic had 20 points and nine rebounds for the Timberwolves.

DeMarcus Cousins had 21 points and 17 rebounds for the Kings in his return from a one-game suspension. Rudy Gay had 22 of his 24 points in the opening half and Isaiah Thomas had 22 points and eight assists in Sacramento's third straight loss.

## Wizards 122, Sixers 103

In Philadelphia, Trevor Ariza made eight 3-pointers and scored a career-high 40 points to help Washington win its sixth straight game.

Ariza made all six 3-point attempts in the first quarter for 24 points and finished 14 of 23 from the floor overall.

The 76ers lost their 13th straight game on the night they retired Allen Iverson's No. 3. Iverson had his number sent to the rafters, fit between Maurice Cheeks' No. 10 and Charles Barkley's No. 34.

The Sixers had a rare sell-out of 20,856 for Iverson's triumphant homecoming. The fans, though, saw the same old sorry Sixers.

Ariza had plenty of help for a Wizards team making a run in the Eastern Conference. John Wall had 17 points and 16 assists, and Marcin Gortat had 13 points and 14 rebounds.



# McIlroy in the lead going into last round at Honda

**The Honda Classic**  
PALM BEACH GARDENS, Fla. (AP)  
-- Rory McIlroy

is 18 holes away from his first PGA Tour victory in 18 months, a chance to show the world he is back on his game.

That's not the way McIlroy views the final round at the Honda Classic.

McIlroy started strong, avoided a big number with a brilliant bogey in the middle and took on the wind and water on the 16th hole for one final birdie Saturday that gave him a 1-under 69 in the toughest conditions and a two-shot lead over Russell Henley at PGA National.

The 24-year-old from Northern Ireland has come to expect this kind of performance.

He finished one shot behind in Abu Dhabi. He played in the final group in Dubai, where nothing went well in the final round. And here is again, making key shots and big putt to keep his nose in front in the Honda Classic.

"I've been building and building toward getting my game to a level where I feel it should be," he said. "And I'm pretty much at that point now."

Saturday wasn't easy.

McIlroy might have saved his day with a bogey on the par-3 seventh. He took a penalty drop from under a palmetto bush, and faced a shot off the pine straw across 20 yards of rough to an elevated green with the pin toward the back right. The shot came off perfectly, and he holed the 8-foot putt for bogey.

"It was one of the best up-and-downs I've ever had, I guess," McIlroy said. "And it was almost like a momentum builder. I just bogeyed the last, but walking off that seventh green with a bogey almost felt like I had saved par or I had almost gained a shot on the field. It kept any momentum

## Tanaka goes 2 shutout innings in 1st Yankees game

**TAMPA, Fla. (AP)**—Masahiro Tanaka stood by his locker after a successful debut, talking about his sharp split-fingered fastball, something that made him so successful in Japan.

Even so, Tanaka is way more than a one-pitch kind of guy.

Asked how many different pitches he threw Saturday in his first spring training game for the New York Yankees, Tanaka started counting on his fingers.

"Seven," he said in English.

"I felt pretty good out there," Tanaka said through an interpreter. "I was nervous, but it was a really good nervousness. I'm relieved to be able to throw against the batters over here."

Tanaka threw two scoreless innings, striking out three and giving up a pair of singles in the Yankees' 4-0 victory over



Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland hits from a bunker onto the second green during the third round of the Honda Classic golf tournament, Saturday, March 1, 2014, in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.

that I had going to the next few holes."

He closed out his round with a 5-iron into the wind to 10 feet of the flag on the 16th for a birdie, and then narrowly missed two birdie chances on the closing holes.

McIlroy was at 12-under 198.

Asked about the importance of winning on a major tour for the first time since the World Tour Championship in Dubai at the end of 2012, and the first time since the BMW Championship at Crooked Stick in 2012 on the PGA Tour, Boy Wonder grappled for the right answer.

"It would be nice. It would be my seventh PGA Tour win," he said. "That's what it is. No bigger, no smaller. And I'll go home and have a nice night and get up the next morning and go play the Seminole Pro-Member. So it's all good."

He also knows it's not over.

Henley wasn't doing anything special until he holed out from 150 yards for eagle on No. 14, and then rammed in a 50-foot birdie putt from just off the green at the 17th for birdie that gave him a 68 and put him in the last group for the first time since he won the Sony Open last year.

That's the only time Henley has won - in his debut as a PGA Tour member - and he hasn't been in this situation since then. Henley has only two top 10s since that win down from Waikiki Beach at the start of 2012. Now he has to chase one of golf's biggest stars, on a course where only one player - Ernie Els in 2008 - has come from behind on the final day to win.

"I'm trying not to pay attention to what Rory is doing," Henley said. "Obviously, he's playing great and he's been in this situation a little bit more than me. But I still have a lot

of confidence and I'm just going to try to play my game and not worry about what he's doing too much."

Russell Knox of Scotland had a 68 and was three shots behind, while Jhonattan Vegas of Venezuela had a 66 and was another shot back.

Tiger Woods is still in the game, but just barely.

Woods matched the low round of the day. He was among five players who shot

65, all before the leaders teed off and the wind kicked into gear, but it was enough to move the No. 1 player 49 spots up the leaderboard and into a tie for 17th. Even so, he was seven shots behind. Woods has never won a PGA Tour event when trailing by more than five shots entering the last round.

"Today was a positive day," Woods said after his lowest score in 10 rounds this year. "Hit the ball well and made some putts and got myself back in the hunt."

It doesn't figure to be easy for Woods or anyone to track down McIlroy, who has converted the 54-hole lead in his last four PGA Tour wins dating to the 2011 Masters, where he blew a four-shot lead. That streak includes the Honda Classic two years, which he won to rise to No. 1 in the world for the first time.

"Definitely not a coincidence," McIlroy said. "I learned a lot that day. I learned not to protect a 54-hole lead. I should have just stuck to the game plan, stuck to my process, not look at the leaderboard, not look at what other people are doing. ... And that's the reason that every 54-hole lead that I've had since, I've been able to close the deal. Hopefully, I can keep that run going tomorrow."

It would be a remarkable turnaround for McIlroy, who a year ago was so frustrated with his game and high expectations that he walked off the course after 26 holes, a mistake he vowed to never repeat.

"There's still 18 holes to go," he said. "But I'm feeling comfortable with where I am."

## Richie Incognito receiving treatment

**MIAMI (AP)**—Embattled former Miami Dolphins guard Richie Incognito is receiving treatment in the wake of the team's bullying scandal, a person familiar with the situation said Saturday.

The person commented to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because Incognito hasn't discussed the situation publicly. The person said the NFL Players Association is supporting Incognito's treatment.

Another person familiar with Incognito's situation said the veteran lineman is exhausted after being "dragged through the mud" in recent months.

Incognito has sent tweets in recent weeks that varied dramatically in tone. He went on a rant that quickly went viral, blasting former teammate Jonathan Martin and his agent, then later tweeted apologies to Martin, Dolphins owner Stephen Ross and Ted Wells, the attor-

ney who investigated the bullying scandal for the NFL.

On Thursday, police in Scottsdale, Ariz., said Incognito told an officer he put several dents in the hood of his Ferrari in an apparent tantrum.

Wells' investigation determined Incognito and two other offensive linemen engaged in persistent harassment of Martin, another offensive lineman and an assistant trainer.

After a report on the investigation was released last month, the Dolphins fired offensive line coach Jim Turner and longtime trainer Kevin O'Neill.

Martin abruptly left the Dolphins last October, underwent counseling for emotional issues and alleged persistent harassment by teammates. Incognito was suspended Nov. 3 and missed the final eight games.

Both have said they want to play in 2014, but neither is expected to be back with the Dolphins.

the Philadelphia Phillies.

Tanaka came in after CC Sabathia and Hiroki Kuroda each pitched two innings. Some fans in the announced crowd of 10,934 at Steinbrenner Field stood when Tanaka went to the mound to a loud ovation.

"A buzz around the park," Sabathia said.

Tanaka was in control the whole way.

"The biggest thing was he looked calm out there," Kuroda said of his countryman through an interpreter. "And the command was there, so he was good."

In a rare scene, Yankees star Derek Jeter was left alone in the clubhouse while Francisco Cervelli, who caught Tanaka, was surrounded by reporters.

"I had to do a lot of things

to get him under the radar today," New York manager Joe Girardi joked.

Tanaka signed a \$155 million, seven-year contract in January. He was 24-0 with a 1.27 ERA last year while leading Rakuten to its first Japan Series title.

Darin Ruf, the first batter Tanaka faced, swung and missed at the right-hander's first two pitches before lining a single to center. After getting a pair of flyballs, Tanaka struck out a swinging Cesar Hernandez.

In the sixth, Tanaka fanned a swinging Ben Revere on an impressive splitter before Ronny Cedeno blooped a single. All-Star Domonic Brown went down swinging and pinch-hitter Kelly Dugan flied out.

The fans again cheered for

Tanaka as he departed, en route to be greeted by his new teammates, who lined the top step in the dugout to offer congratulations.

"I was encouraged by what I saw, how he handled it," Girardi said. "I think people were eager to see him pitch. The guys on our team were eager to see him pitch."

Tanaka is expected to make his first regular-season start in New York's third or fourth game.

The Yankees said Saturday's game was carried by three TV networks in Japan.

Tanaka, however, doubted that family or friends watched it live back home, where it was early in the morning.

"Probably not," he said with a smile. "Because they're all sleeping."



# Pacquiao too strong, quick for sparmate

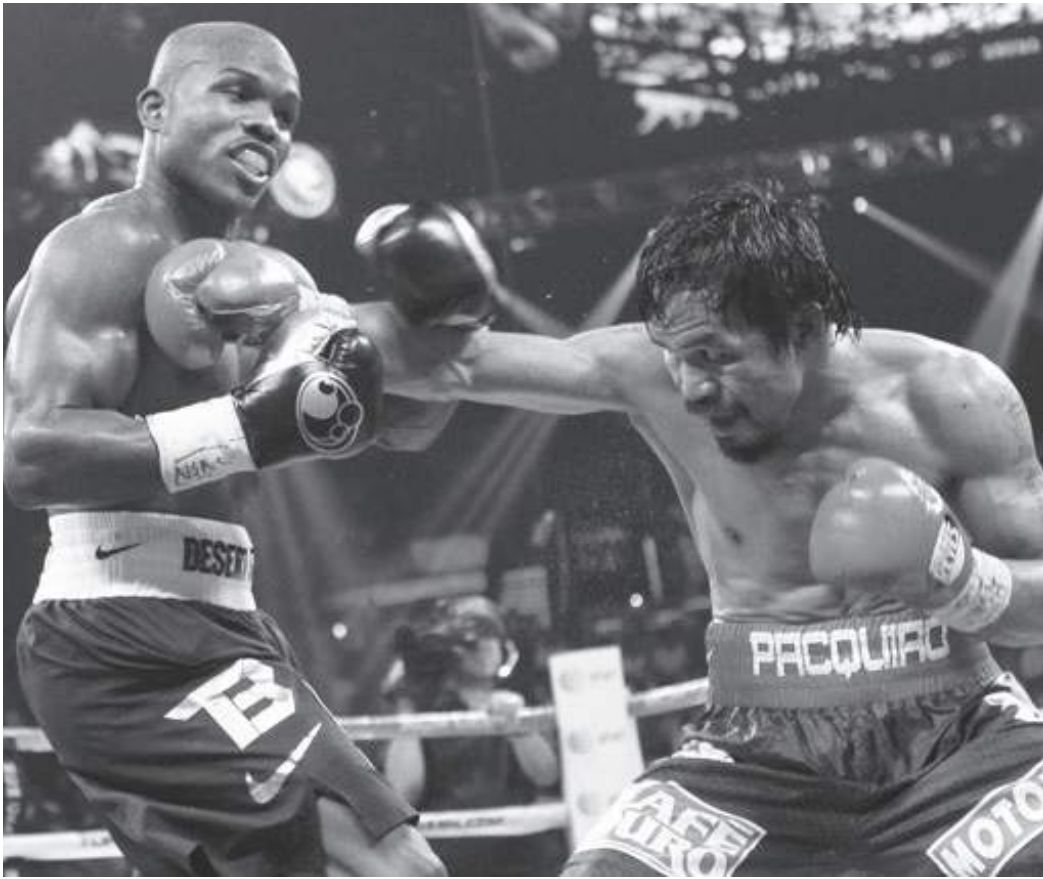
**MANILA, Philippines**—After three sparring sessions with Manny Pacquiao, Lydell Rhodes feels the \$1,500 incentive offered by chief trainer Freddie Roach if he could knock down the Filipino ring icon is beyond reach.

Pacquiao has proven to be too strong and too fast for Rhodes, who needs to sneak in a power punch that could probably bring the Fighter of the Decade down to his knees.

Had the world's only eight-division champion wanted it, Pacquiao could have easily knocked down Rhodes.

The disparity in skills was obvious in their third sparring session that lasted six rounds Saturday at Pacquiao's Wild Card Gym in General Santos City.

Each time Rhodes went on attack mode, Pacquiao would just spun around and leave the unbeaten American (19-0, 9 KOs) in an awkward stance and open for a crunching shot.



Manny Pacquiao, right, connects a shot on Timothy Bradley during their first encounter in Las Vegas in 2012.

Pacquiao, however, would allow Rhodes to regain his balance before the Sarangani representative resumed his sparring session in preparation for his grudge rematch

with Timothy Bradley on April 12 at MGM Grand in Las Vegas.

Assistant trainer Nonoy Neri, who doubles as Pacquiao's personal cook, noted that Rhodes also packs a wallop.

The coaching staff that also includes assistant trainer Buboy Fernandez is focusing on further honing Pacquiao's left uppercut for the 12-round bout with Bradley, who wrested Pacquiao's WBO welterweight crown via a widely criticized split decision in late 2012.

In their first sparring session that went four rounds Tuesday, Pacquiao bloodied the nose of Rhodes, who's is as tall and as bulky as the

5-foot-6 Bradley. Advertisement:Replay Ad Pacquiao and Rhodes did five rounds last Thursday.

To keep Pacquiao from hitting peak form early, the next sparring session on Tuesday will also be for six rounds.

Team Pacquiao will leave for the United States on Saturday for the second and tougher phase of training camp at Roach's Wild Card Gym in Hollywood.

There, Pacquiao will have new top-caliber sparring partners in Kendall Hoyt and Steve Formes.

Michael Koncz, Pacquiao's adviser, has contacted the former world champions to simulate Bradley's fighting style.

## Micro Games fast-pitch tryout

The CNMI Softball Association is planning to hold tryouts for a fast-pitch team that will compete in the 2014 Micronesian Games in Pohnpei this year.

Interested coaches, players, and managers are requested to attend a meeting today at

5:30pm at the pavilion inside the Oleai Sports Complex and learn more about the Micro Games' fast-pitch tournament.

For more information, contact John Maratita at 288-6901 or Jordan Kosam at 989-7752. (PR)

## IT&E

From Page 28

day's matches.

### Falcons 11, Red Sox 6

The Falcons remained undefeated in six games after outclassing the Red Sox in last Saturday's curtain-raiser.

The Falcons went to work early, scoring in the first three innings to build a 9-2 advantage and never looked back from thereon. The Red Sox logged the two runs in the first inning to force the first and only deadlock

in the game, as the Falcons began controlling the match in the second inning after drilling six runs. Third baseman Arby Yaguel led the Falcons in the second inning, as he connected on a two-RBI double, while the four other runs were made off two RBI walks and catcher's miscues.

The Falcons kept their good distance, as they shut out the Red Sox in the next four innings before giving up four runs at the bottom of the sixth.

### Braves 18, Comets II 0

In the last game, the Braves

took a short route in whipping the Comets II, winning the lopsided match after only three and a half innings.

Vicente Camacho threw a two-hitter and had six strikeouts in the victory that lifted the Braves to a division fourth-best 5-1 record. Camacho also scored two runs and was 2-for-3 at the plate.

The Braves pitcher and seven of his teammates reached home in the first innings. Six Braves in the batting order went to bat twice at the top of the first and three rounded the bases anew, giving the team

a promising 11-0 lead. The Braves got five earned runs and six off the Comets II's defensive blunder in the first inning.

In the second inning, the Braves remained on target with Anthony Dison and Blad Igitol blasting RBI double each and Robin Sablan and Isaiah Teigita adding RBI singles. Sablan also scored off a pitcher's error to power the Braves to a commanding 16-0 advantage.

The Comets II, which had an opportunity to score in the first inning with runners on

second and third, but was frustrated when Camacho struck out Kobe Deleon Guerrero for the third out, had only a runner reaching second base in the second inning, as the next three struck out. In the third inning, Camacho gained one more strikeout and no Comets II runner made it past first base. Camacho then earned his sixth strikeout at the top of the fourth, booting out leadoff batter Deleon Guerrero, and the Comets II was done after only three batters, as the second one was beaten to second and the third flied out.

## FALCONS

From Page 28

the defending champions.

With the win, the Falcons improved to a 4-4 record for third place in the team standings behind the Enforcers (7-0) and Comets (4-3), pending results of the two other games last Saturday. The Red Sox absorbed their sixth loss and have only one win so far this season.

The victory was also the Falcons' second in as many outings against the Red Sox, as the former coasted to a 10-2

triumph in the first round on Jan. 20.

In their second meeting, the Falcons and the Red Sox engaged in a seesaw battle, but the former had the last say after capitalizing on the latter's defensive errors. Before Omengkar recorded the winning run, the Red Sox were just one out away from sending the game in extra inning.

### BIG LEAGUE

#### Fielders 19, Lions 8

In last Thursday's Big League match, the Fielders (2-3) dominated the winless Lions (0-5).

The Fielders stepped up in the last three innings to deny the Lions entry to the win column.

Ahead by only two, 6-4, after four complete innings, the Fielders scored 13 runs in the last three innings against the Lions' four. The Lions scored all four runs in the fourth inning.

Joe Kileleman had a two-run single in the fifth inning and added another RBI single and one run in the sixth a to help the Fielders gain more cushion. The Fielders got three runs each in the fifth and seventh inning and seven in the

sixth. Three runs in the sixth were made off passed balls, two came from RBI walks, and one from a wild pitch.

### Padres 8, Lions 7

In the other Big League game last week, the Padres survived a challenge from the Lions.

Relief pitcher A.J. Lizama and first baseman Ty Deleon Guerrero teamed up in a big defensive stop for the Padres, as the former picked up a short shot from Keene Deleon Guerrero and threw to first base for the third out.

The Lions threatened the fa-

vored Padres at the bottom of the seventh inning after scoring two runs off passed balls and Paul Celis connecting on an RBI single with two outs. Bret Halstead scored the second run off Lizama's passed ball, while Jared Ayuyus was next at bat and walked. Keene Deleon Guerrero then took his chance at the plate and hit his target, but Lizama was quick to get the ball and threw to Ty Deleon Guerrero to foil the Lions' upset bid.

With the win, the Padres forced a tie for the lead with the Braves (4-1).

## 4 TSUNAMI

From Page 28

in Tokyo.

Yanai, who will be competing in the Tokyo Sprint for the third time, is entered in two events—the 100m individual medley and 50m breaststroke. Tsunami Saipan coach Hiro Kimura is expecting Yanai to medal in the two events after making it to the podium in his first two stints in the annual competition. In his

debut in the Tokyo Sprints in 2010, Yanai won a gold medal in the 100m IM, while in 2012, the 13-year-old swimmer brought home a silver medal in the 100m IM.

Yanai was the second Tsunami Saipan swimmer to join the Tokyo Sprint. Kai Staal was the first one, joining one of the prestigious competitions in Japan in 2009 and claiming a silver in the 50m breaststroke and bronze in the 50m freestyle.

Other Tsunami Saipan swimmers who won medals in the past Tokyo Sprint were Kensuke Kimura, Ryuto Yanai, and Tammy. Kensuke took a silver medal in the 100m IM, while Ryuto bagged a gold in the 50m freestyle and bronze in the 50m butterfly. Tammy also clinched a bronze in the 100m IM in the 2012 edition of the tournament.

This year, Tammy will join the 100m IM race, again. The Tsunami Saipan head coach is

expecting Tammy to win the gold medal this time in both the 100m IM and 50m butterfly events in the 11 to 12 age group.

In the 13 to 14 division, De Jesus will race in the 100m IM and 50m freestyle and she is pressed to advance to the finals of the two events. In the 15-and-over division competition, Sugie has only one event—the 50m freestyle—and Hiro Kimura is urging him to complete the sprint in 26 seconds.

“The last time we competed in Tokyo Sprint, we advanced into the finals of eight events and won five medals. Our swimmers will do their best to have good results in this year's tournament,” Hiro Kimura said.

Joining Hiro Kimura and the four swimmers in the tournament that draws about 3,000 participants are assistant coach and Japan-based Shin Kimura, team manager Yoriko Sugie and official Miki Ordenez.

## TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

### NBA STANDINGS

#### EASTERN CONFERENCE Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	32	26	.552	—
Brooklyn	28	29	.491	3½
New York	21	38	.356	11½
Boston	20	40	.333	13
Philadelphia	15	44	.254	17½

#### Southeast Division

Miami	42	14	.750	—
Washington	31	28	.525	12½
Charlotte	27	31	.466	16
Atlanta	26	31	.456	16½
Orlando	18	43	.295	26½

#### Central Division

Indiana	45	13	.776	—
Chicago	32	26	.552	13
Cleveland	24	37	.393	22½
Detroit	23	36	.390	22½
Milwaukee	11	47	.190	34

#### WESTERN CONFERENCE Southwest Division

San Antonio	42	16	.724	—
Houston	40	19	.678	2½
Dallas	36	24	.600	7
Memphis	33	25	.569	9
New Orleans	23	36	.390	19½

#### Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	44	15	.746	—
Portland	41	18	.695	3
Minnesota	29	29	.500	14½
Denver	25	33	.431	18½
Utah	21	37	.362	22½

#### Pacific Division

L.A. Clippers	41	20	.672	—
Golden State	36	23	.610	4
Phoenix	34	24	.586	5½
L.A. Lakers	20	39	.339	20
Sacramento	20		3 9	
.339	20			

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



# The Week in Sports

## NMASA awardees take spotlight

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**  
[roselyn\\_monroyo@saipantribune.com](mailto:roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com)  
 REPORTER

Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association's awardees were on center stage last week.

The honors list included Male and Female Athletes of the Year Russ Quinn and Leina Kim, NMASA/TSL Foundation Student Athletes of the Year Carol Lee and Kensuke Kimura, the CNMI Junior Tennis Team, Mili Saiki, and CNMI Sports Hall of Famer, Class of 2014 Michael White, Melvin Sakisat, Bertha Chong, and Maggie Taitano-Olopai.

The CNMI Junior Tennis Team was named Team of the Year for dominating the 2013 North Pacific Regional Championship and the Pacific Oceania Junior Championships, while Saiki was selected Coach of the Year for leading Saipan International School to victories in volleyball competitions both in the private and public school leagues.

The four top athletes were honored for their notable performances in their respective sports. Quinn was cited for his successful comeback in cycling after undergoing an operation, while Kim was recognized for her outstanding rookie season in collegiate golf. Kimura shared the student honors with Lee for his record-breaking swims in on and off-island tournaments, while the



NMASA/TSL Foundation Student Athletes of the Year Kensuke Kimura and Carol Lee pose with their trophies and cut-out photos during the NMASA Awards Banquet last week at the Seaside Hall of Kanoa Resort.

latter earned NMASA's nods for her impressive showings in local and international tennis tournaments.

White, Sakisat, Chong, and Taitano-Olopai were inducted to the elite group of CNMI athletes and officials for their contribution to the Commonwealth sports for decades.

Meanwhile, other notable

events last week were the program competition in the 2014 Marianas Cup Beach Volleyball Festival and the opening of the 2014 Sun Palace Singles and Doubles Badminton Tournament.

Saipan-raised Misaki Cramer teamed up with pro Paul Baxter in winning the men's championships against Guam's Manny Guarin and Japanese pro Hiro-

shi Murakami. In the women's division, Miki Oyama and Erika Habaguchi prevailed in the all-Japan finale against Miyu Sakamoto and Anna Miyakawa.

In the Sun Palace badminton tournament, which was the season-opening event of the Northern Marianas Badminton Association, over 80 players are competing in the singles



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Players of the CNMI Junior Tennis Team and coach Jeff Race, back row right, pose with NMASA officials during the NMASA Awards Banquet last week at the Seaside Hall of Kanoa Resort.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

NMASA president Michael White, right, is congratulated by NMASA secretary Ross Igitol after the former was inducted to the CNMI Sports Hall of Fame during the NMASA Awards Banquet last week at the Seaside Hall of Kanoa Resort.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Paul Baxter, right, and Misaki Cramer wait for the serve from their final foe during last week's 2014 Marianas Cup Beach Volleyball Festival at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan sandcourts.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Braves pitcher delivers a pitch against the Ol'Aces during their game in the Major division of the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball last week at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

EAFF general secretary Joo-Sung Kim, right, talks with NMIFA president Jerry Tan, left, while Chelsea FC Soccer School (Hong Kong) technical director Luam Khen Koo looks on during a brief meeting at the Oleai Sports Complex Field last week.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Saipan Southern High School's Jun Javier pulls up for a jumper against Mount Carmel School's Soon Hyung Kwon during the fourth quarter of their varsity game in the MISO caging last week at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

and doubles events and favored players delivered in the opening week of the annual contest.

Other ongoing leagues on Saipan continued with the Major division games in the Saipan Little League Baseball taking place at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Ballfield and the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield hosting matches in the Junior, Senior, and Big League divisions.

The NMIFA youth league had its football games at the Oleai Sports Complex Field and Hopwood Junior High School Field, while MISO concluded the regular season of its boys basketball and girls volleyball leagues at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Still in football, the CNMI had a visitor last week in former World Cup player Joo-Sung Kim of Korea. Kim, who is the general secretary of East Asian Football Federation, met with local football players and officials.





LeBron wears new mask, helps Heat beat Magic  
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# Saipan Tribune Sports

McIlroy in the lead going into last round at Honda  
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28 MONDAY, MARCH 3, 2014

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## IT&E steals victory from IP&E



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

**I**T&E rallied past the IP&E Rockies to pull off a 15-14 cliffhanger in the Major division game in the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball League last Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pan-

Down at 6-14, after five and a half-innings, IT&E collected nine runs at the bottom of the sixth and last inning with Asanuma making the game-winning hit to lift the team to the close win. Asanuma, who relieved Denzel Pangelinan in the batting order in the second



inning, went for his second at bat in the sixth and singled, driving Spencer Dickinson home. Before the game-clinching hit, IT&E loaded the bases with two outs. Counting Dickinson's run, IT&E gained six other earned runs in the pivotal bottom of the sixth.

Only one batter in IT&E's top of the order missed home in the first round, while Dickinson scored twice and made an RBI double in his first at bat.

IT&E got off to a good start, drilling six runs in the first two innings, but the IP&E Rockies managed to lead, 10-5, thanks to a nine-run top of the second. The IP&E Rockies capitalized on IT&E's errors early in the game to control the match and padded its lead in the next three innings after shutting out the latter. However, IT&E regained its bearings in the last inning to steal the victory. The win helped IT&E bounce back from a 5-8 loss to McDonald's in a make-up game last Thursday's and improve its record to 5-2 for fifth place in the 15-team field (pending results of last Sun-

See IT&E on Page 26

### Falcons nip Red Sox in Junior League



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Falcons runner looks at the umpire after sliding back to first base during the bottom of the fifth inning of their game against the Red Sox in the Junior League division of the Saipan Little League Baseball last Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Falcons nosed out the Red Sox, 11-10, in the first game in the Junior League division of the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball last Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Kody Omengkar scored the winning run for the Falcons at the bottom of the seventh and last inning, as he hit a triple and made it home off a Red Sox wild pitch. The Falcons also registered the equalizer off a wild pitch from Red Sox closer Delin Reusora, while the first run in the last inning came off another miscue from

See FALCONS on Page 26

### 4 Tsunami Saipan swimmers to join Tokyo Sprint



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Tsunami Saipan's Angel De Jesus, Kaito Yanai, Miku Tammy, and Takumi Sugie pose for a group photo during a break in their training session at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool last week.



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Four Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center members are heading to Japan this week to participate in the 2014 Tokyo Junior Sprint.

Leading the club's bid to the annual tournament are returnees Kaito Yanai and Miku Tammy, while Takumi Sugie and Angel De Jesus will have their debuts in the event that will run on March 8 and 9 at the Tatsumi International Swimming Arena

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
IT&E's Christopher Achas shows his pitching form during the first inning of their game against the IP&E Rockies in the Major division of the Saipan Little League Baseball last Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.